

ACROSS THE WIRES- ANTI TYPE

Project Report

Maziar Raein, Associate Professor, Department of Design

BACKGROUND

This project took the KHiO Letter Archive at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts as an archive source that informs Norwegian design and design education. The archive facilitates an understanding of the historic context for drawing in typography and provides a range of international (USA, UK Sweden, Germany, Italy etc.) source material influencing the typography and printing traditions of the 20 century.



The point of departure for this artistic research project was role of drawing with regards to the edge of form in type design in the creation of letter forms. In order to structure the investigation, this the project examined a variety of tools that facilitate drawing ranging from; the humble pencil to contemporary design programmes such as Adobe Illustrator and Glyphs (a type design programme), and also a number of other tools such as CNC milling, letterpress techniques, lino printing etc.

RESEARCH PROCESS & METHODS

Through a series of workshops various iterative exercises were undertaken in order to not only identify and edit the research material and to develop questions more accurately, but also identify the thematic sources for investigation. This included issues such as the role of line, form, shape etc.



The project team was expanded at this point to include; Ane Thon Knutsen, Artistic Research Fellow at the Department of Design, and Ellmer Stefan, type designer and Visiting Lecturer were invited to join the project.

The team developed a number of key insights which identified that an investigation of the spaces in between letters, offers a means of understanding the role of form in creation of

letter forms. In other words creating form from the outside in, as oppose starting from a line and working out.

The project's working title was reformulated into ACROSS THE WIRES - ANTI TYPE.

Moreover, it was felt that a more methodologically robust process would be to examine these insights by inviting colleagues from an international background, involved in letter design, letterpress and lettering arts to also co-investigate the idea. To this end Helen Ingham at Central Saint Martins - London and Edwin Pickstone at the Glasgow School of Art were invited to participate in this project.

THE PROJECT REALISATION

A number of Anti Type letter forms were designed. Lettering that is visually defined by the space in between letters. Through a combination of digital and analogue production methods resulted in three sets of printing modules. This involved a complex design process that created form that included the inverted process in the drawing, routing and cutting of these negative shapes reveals an often overlooked aspect of the reading activity.



ANTI TYPE - Letter Design using Glyphs & Illustrator



CNC Milling of the Forms



Printing of the Matrix as a poster.



Forms developed for distribution to London and Glasgow

THE EXHIBITION

All five participants: Maziar Raein, Ane Thon Knutsen, Ellmer Stefan, Helen Ingham and Edwin Pickstone were invited to create work for an exhibition that was held at KHiO's Resepsjonsgalleriet in January 2018.



There was a very positive response to the exhibition which was well tended by staff, students and public alike. The work displayed demonstrated a wide range of debates which were taken up among colleagues in the field.





Pictures of exhibition setup and opening

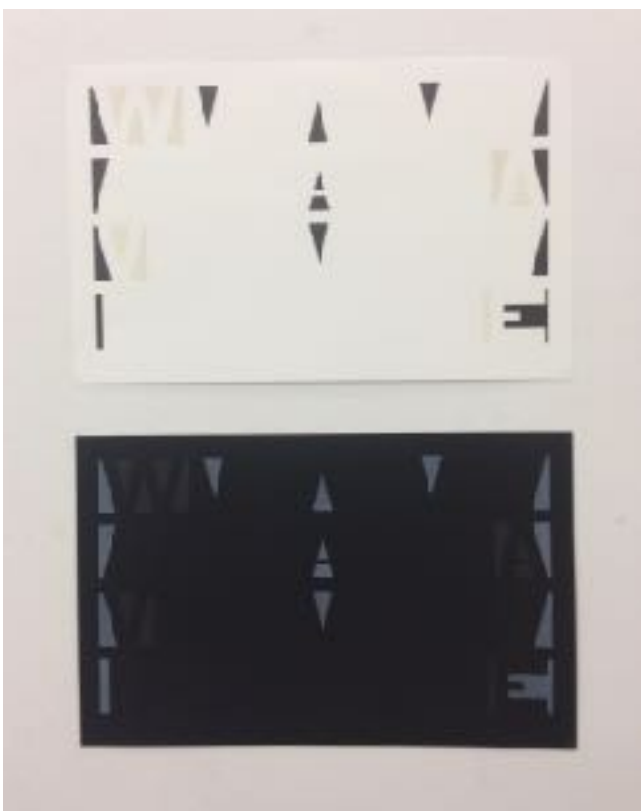
The Work



Book by Ane Thon Knutsen



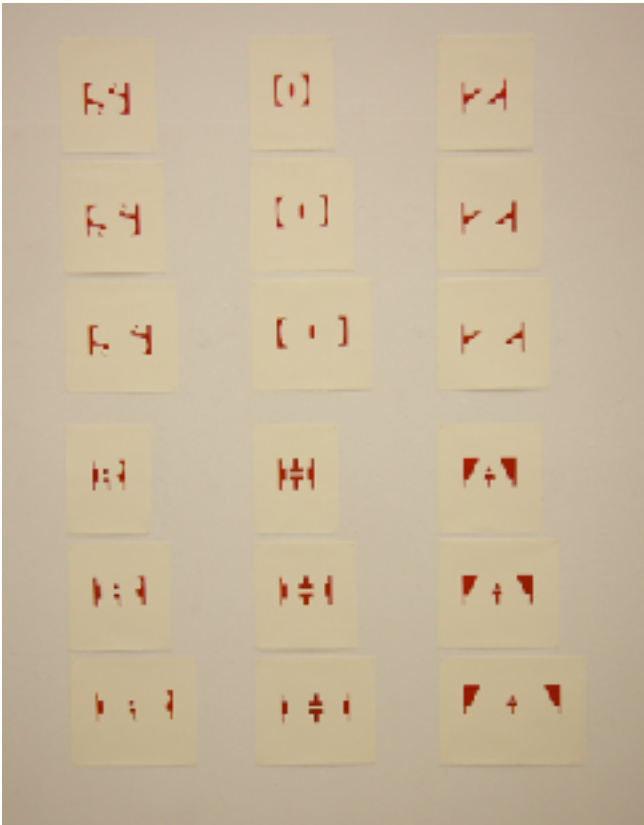
Posters by Helen Ingham



Posters by Edwin Pickstone



Works by Ellmer Stefan



Works by Maziar Raein

DISSEMINATION

Works from this project will be exhibited at the New Impressions Exhibition, Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum in Two Rivers, USA in June 2018

Moreover there is a forthcoming publication from the projection June 2018.

