

Rik Fisher

Manchester School of Art - Sketchbook Collection 2020

Title: 'Lost'

Note: Unfortunately the book is still in my locker at MMU and I am unable to retrieve it, otherwise I would have liked to video it to show the detail and interactions. These images show some (not so great) photos I took on my phone before university closed, although not ideal hopefully you will get a feel for what it is like.

Brief description: Part exploration into walking as a creative and critical tool. Part exploration into bookbinding. Part questioning presentation. I repurposed an atlas to encapsulate a project from start to finish, both a sketchbook and final piece.

Questioning the idea of how process and presentation are shown.

The books first half takes readers through a mental drift of the projects process, from alternative referencing to attempts in representing interactions during research, encouraging them to become participants through interactive elements. The second half is a 'secret' compartment housing several hand bound books representing walks taken during, and influenced by, the research process.

Cover

The book is a repurposed/subverted hardback atlas. I used the bookbinding workshop to emboss over the original embossing. Purposely allowing the original text to be seen.



Front cover



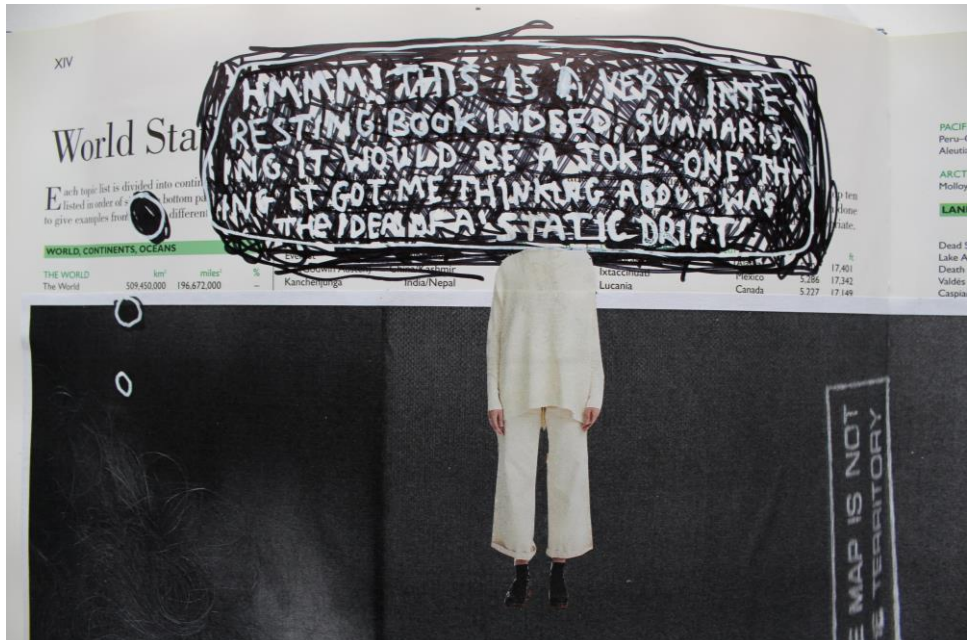
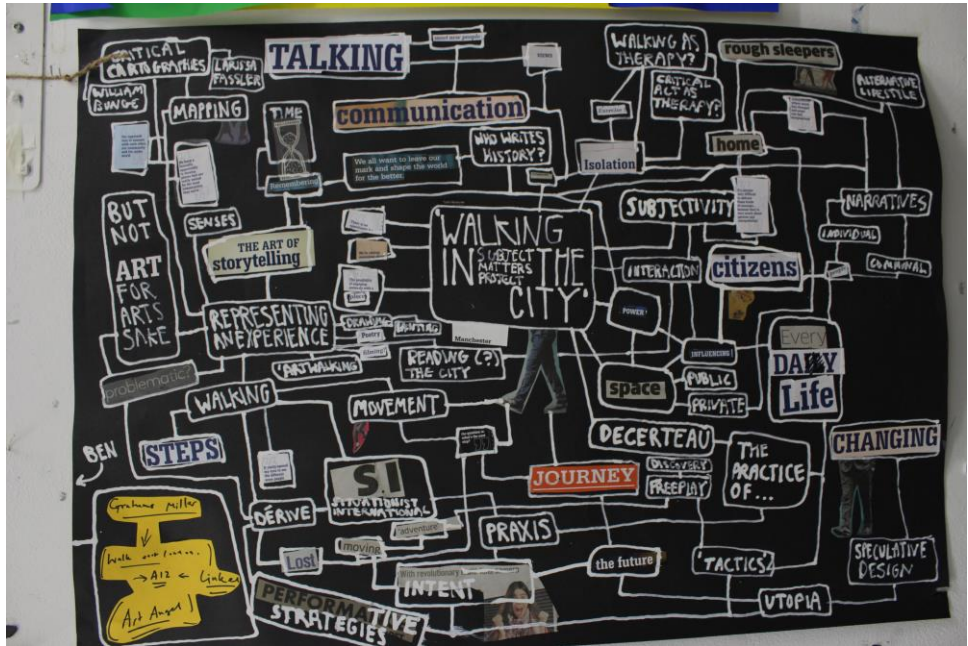
Spine

Brainstorming

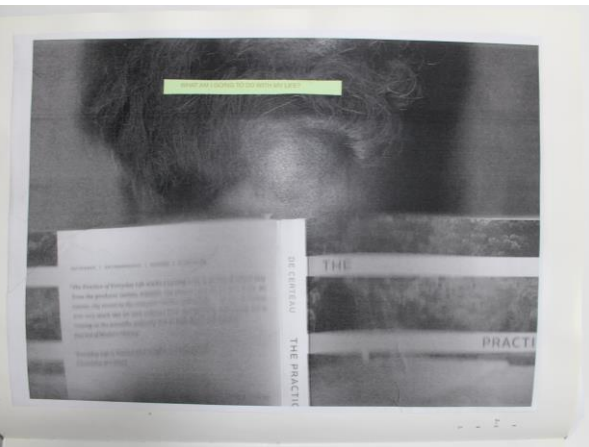
I used several methods to brainstorm in the sketchbook. For example, flowing improvised writing, allowing me to retell experiences otherwise not noted and reiterate elements from the research that have stuck. Other methods I used were collaging, subverting print medias original meaning. Also I played with imagery, as shown here with a body having a thought bubble as a head.

Brainstorming

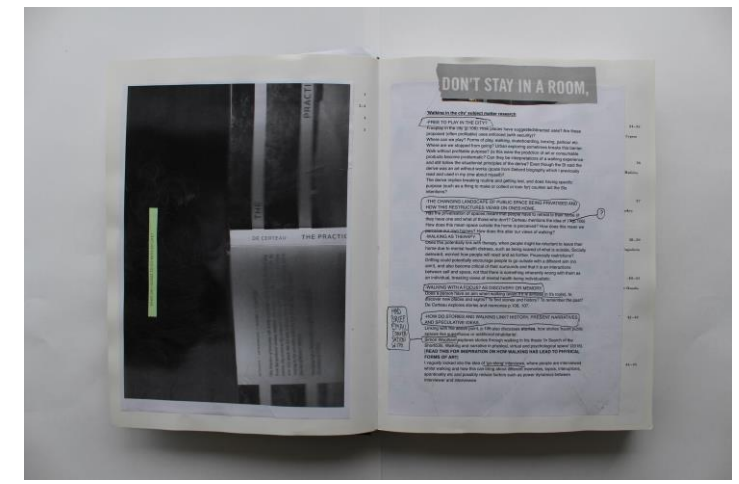
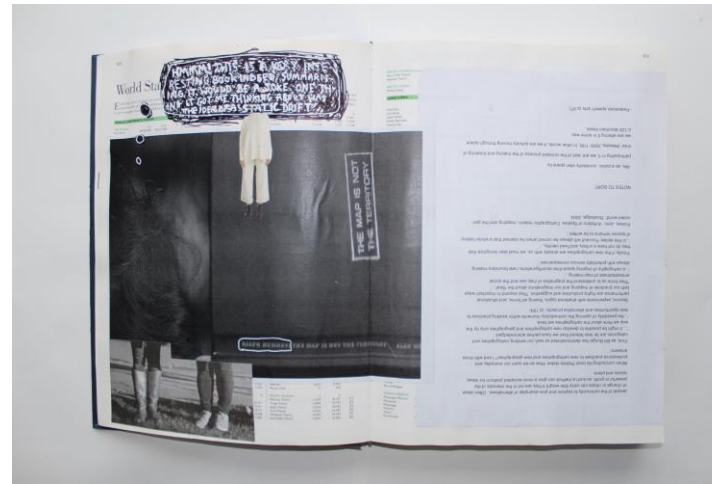
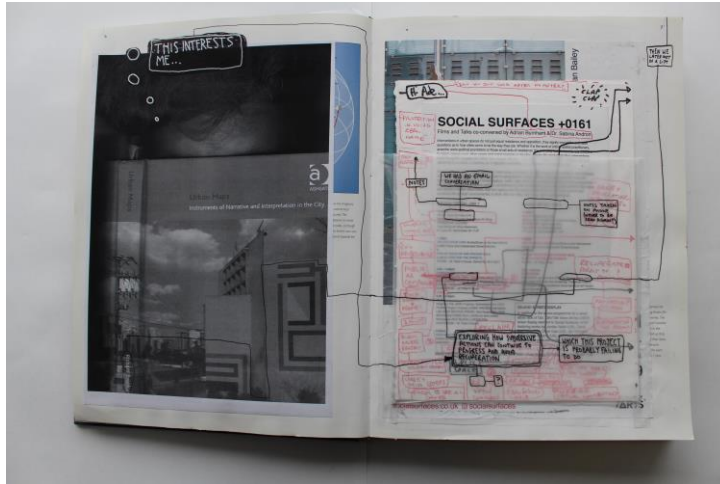
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A black and white photograph of a dark, textured surface. In the upper left and right portions, there are two white, hand-drawn, oval shapes. Each shape contains a smaller, curved line, giving them the appearance of stylized eyes or perhaps small figures. In the bottom left corner, there is a small, white, rectangular object. The overall composition is abstract and minimalist.

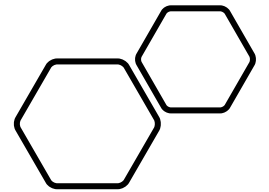
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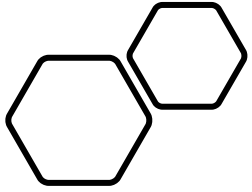
Further referencing



I attended a symposium and made notes on the events programme, I also played with adding these to the sketchbook, using tracing paper and lines to links connecting themes and people.

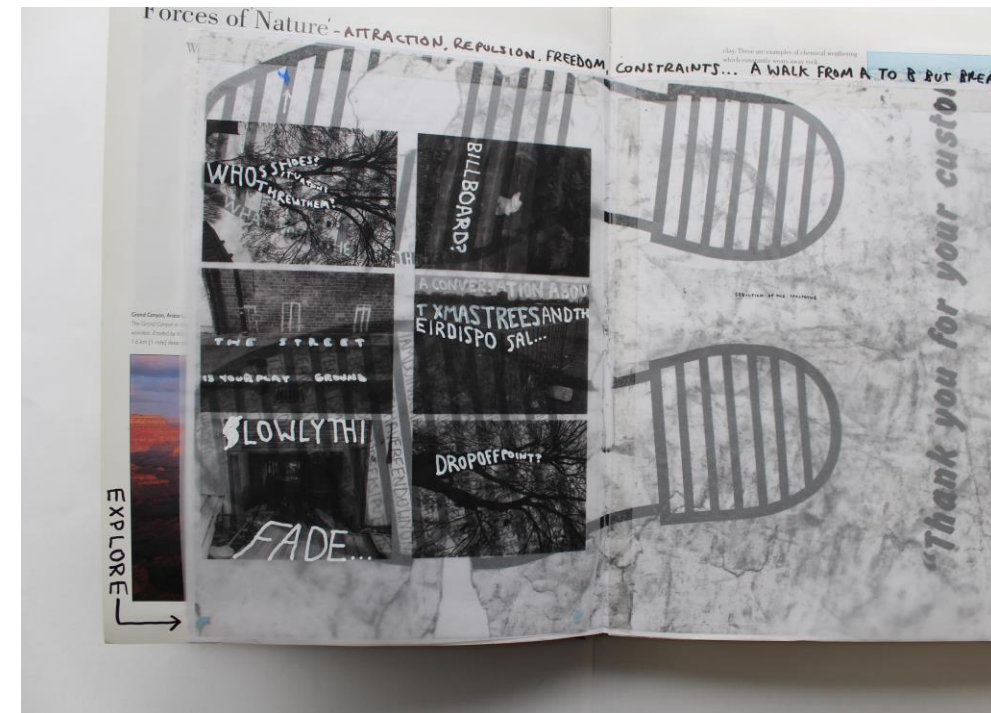
Included were print outs of research done on a computer and typed up and also screenshots and message conversations linked to the project, trying to find some way of fitting the digital into the physical.

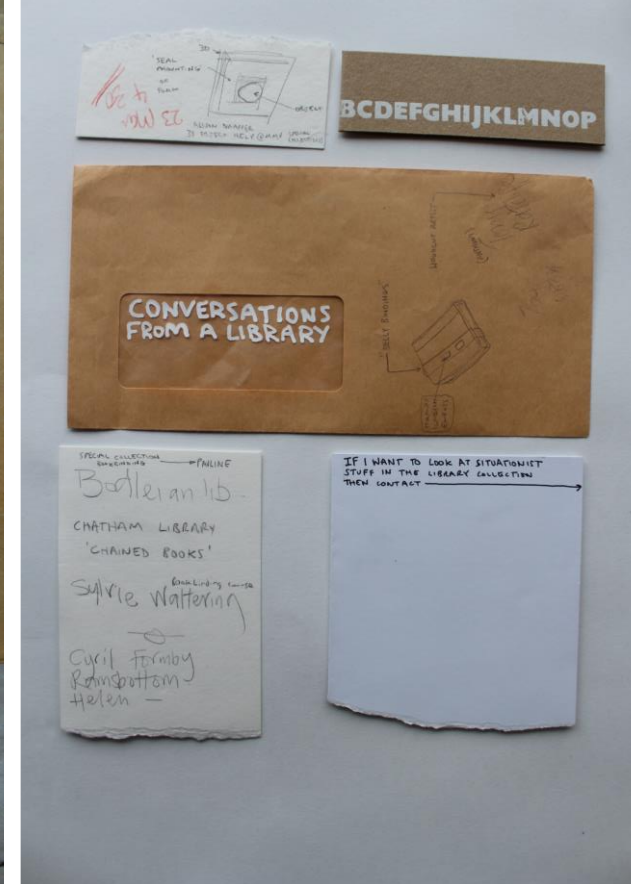
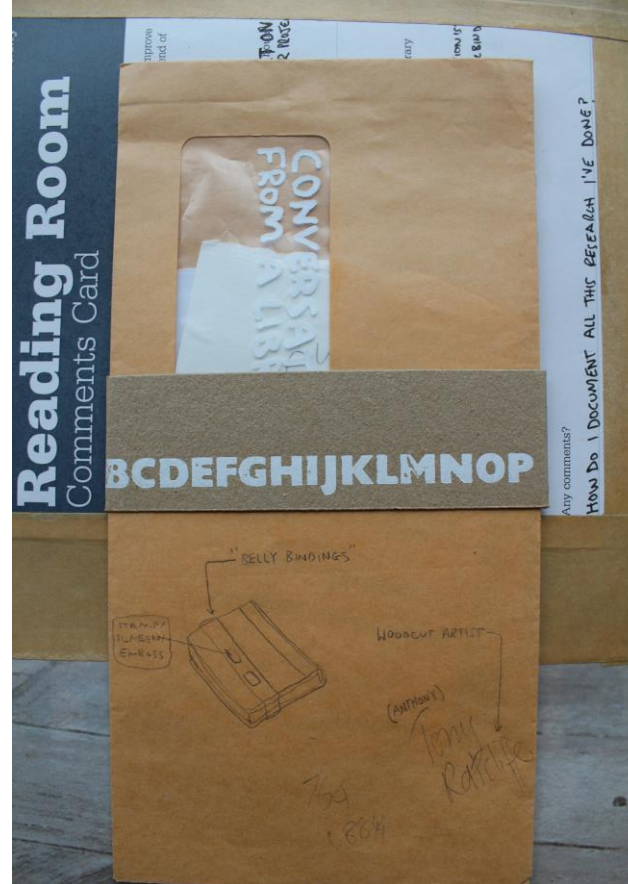
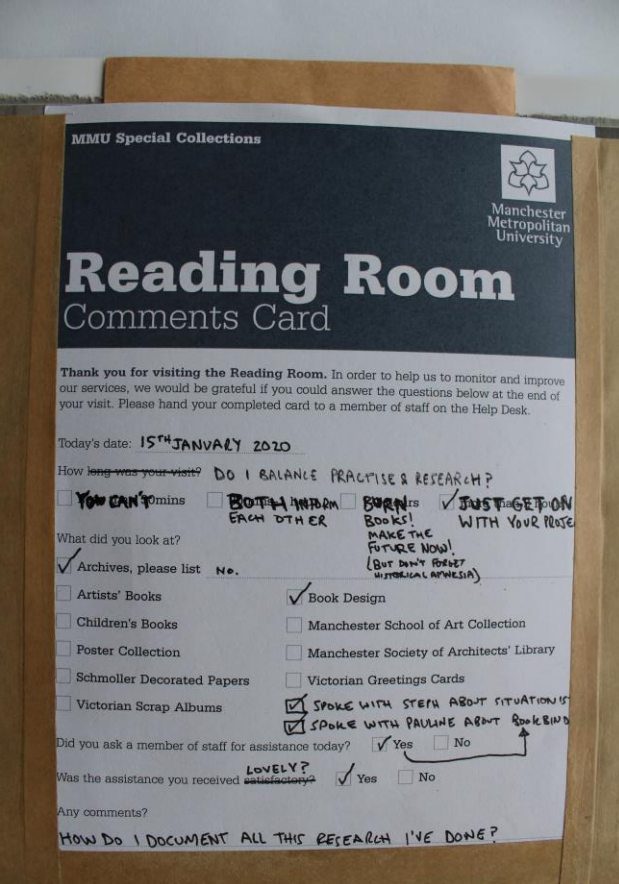




Part of my research included walking. I referenced this in my sketchbook in several different ways, e.g. using street rubbings and also once I had printed photos from walks onto tracing paper and inserted them into my sketchbook, I also wrote about my experiences using the shapes in these photos. I also collected items and stuck them in, e.g. foot prints shown here.

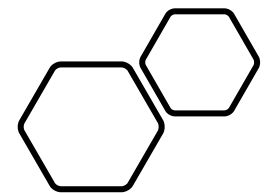
Referencing walking research





Alternative documentation of interactions and conversations had during research

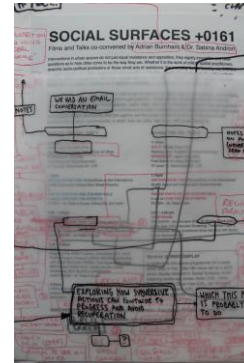
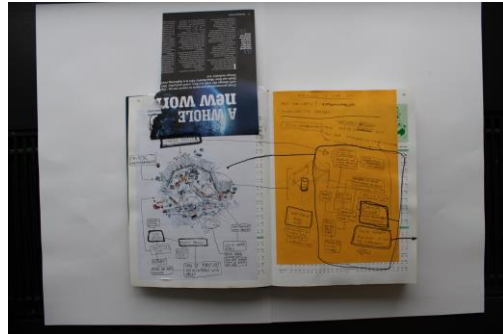
As my project proceeded and I undertook more research I considered how I could document all the interactions that I had with people. For example, the above pictures represent a conversation I had with people in the special collections library (shown above) . I used notes and drawings that were done during conversations. I also reused items such as the reading room comments card (shown above) to make my own notes, using whatever was on hand at the time. It felt good to add in notes that are often lost in sketchbooks and projects and also to recognise the help given and interactions had with people who help a project to come into being.





Interactive elements

The book encourages readers to be participants with several interactive elements. For example, flap revealing pictures and further information. There are mini books sewn in that one can flip through. Film negatives from the photos used in one of the final books. Also sheets that can be pulled out to investigate further into specific elements.





Finally... Secret compartment



As noted in the description, this book was an experiment with the entire project, sketchbook process and final pieces, embedded into one. The second half of the book has a 'secret compartment' cut out of it which houses the various different styles of hand made books representing walks, which were all covered in the previous sketchbook pages.

