

5. Nettle Linocuts

Print 15x10 cm

On nettle paper £175

On card £75



*Do Not Touch*



*Bast Fibres*



*Late Summer Shade*

6. *Black Windows, White Bombs*

Nettle paper, walnut ink, handmade chalk paint

Series of A5 monoprints, £175 each



*Tulsa 1921*



*Mirror World*



*A Matter of Time*



*False Equivalence*



*Tombstones*



*Us vs Them*



*Hierarchy*



*But What Can I Do?*



*The Same Pattern Again*



*Appropriation*



*Cleansing*



*Black Windows White Bombs*



*Disproportionate*



*Out of the ashes*



*White women's fragility*



*Security*



*Settled*



*Colonisation*



*:D*



*Separate but*

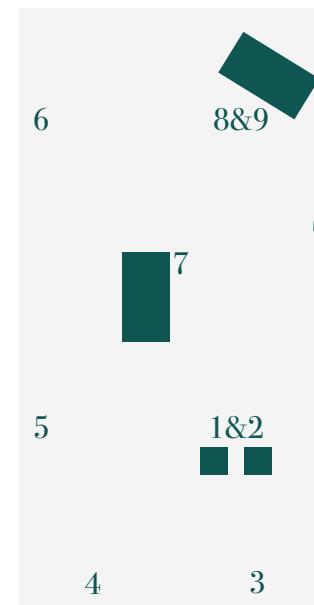
Cambridge Artworks

Feb 15-16<sup>th</sup> 11-5pm

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# Gathering Pages

Helen Cook

With contributions from 22 artists

## 1&2. *Gathering Pages*

23 Artists, see overleaf

Book bound from handmade nettle paper, various media

Vol 1: Pages gathered Aug-Oct 2024

Vol 2: Pages gathered up to Jan 2025



## 3. Films on rotation

i. Slideshow of all pages, 3 min

ii. 3 weeks making nettle paper, 1 min



## 4. Sketchbook

Book bound from handmade nettle paper, handmade rust and chalk paint

## 5. Nettle Linocuts

(See back)

## 6. *Black Windows, White Bombs*

(See back)

## 7. Process work

## 8. *Making Paper from Stinging Nettles*

Pamphlet collecting my learnings from the summer

32 pages, with 15 drawings and photos

First printing, edition of 10, £10



## 9. Preorders of next year's nettle paper

Delivered Oct 2025

# Gathering Pages Vol 1&2



Antonia Stringer



Material Woman



Helen Cook



Mansi Shouche



Ben Varney



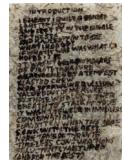
Helen Cook



Sara Paynter



Ben Varney



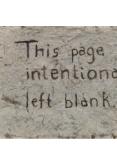
Ian Heames



Helen Cook



Alex Parker



Helen Cook



Clio Lloyd-Jacob



Helen Cook



Rachel Wooller



Emily Jolley



Ian Heames



Lianna Etkind



Lizzy McCaughan



Helen Cook



Katie Love



Malini Roy



Helen Cook



Ben Varney



Alexie Staffer



Jan Ayton



Jill Eastland



Mark VanHeygen



Annabel Fraser



Aggie Forster



Helen Cook



Samantha Edwards



Jan Ayton



Helen Cook



Titus Keate

This summer, I was lucky to be selected for a residency in the Artworks Caravan. During the 3 weeks I was here, I made paper from stinging nettles I foraged on Midsummer Common. I invited folks to select a sheet of nettle paper and to use it to record their thoughts in words, pictures, or abstraction, thinking broadly about paper and our relationship to it. I have bound the contributions together into a book, *Gathering Pages*. Due to the popularity of this project, the book was quickly followed by a second volume.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed their creativity, time and effort.

Nettle paper is gorgeous, but its beauty is not in a crisp, white rectangle. The final unbleached pages retain some of the natural green colour and fibrous quality of the nettles. Each non-conformist sheet has its own personality, without perfectly square corners or straight edges. These deviations are worth celebrating, and are far more interesting than a ream of uniform white rectangles.

This project starts with making paper, but is deeply an interrogation of capitalism's resource hunger and drive to devalue life. Sharing the pages and asking people to create art with them is microcosm of the urgent, anti-authoritarian response needed to reclaim our humanity from a political and economic system that will devour everything.

The series Black windows, White bombs continues this theme specifically focusing on anti-colonial and anti-racist ideas. I repeatedly use an arched shape to evoke windows and bombs. This imagery calls out the mindset that other people simply existing is cause for violence against them, and denounces the reprehensible idea of finding safety in persecuting others.

The exhibition concludes with a table of my pamphlets and propaganda that encourages you to make your own paper, metaphorical or not.