

Evelyn TeSelle
Final Project Reflection

For this project, I wanted to use old emails from an account I have had since 2006 in order to reflect on relationships with friends and family through time. I chose emails that are funny, sentimental, and nostalgic, and organized them from oldest to newest. I decided to show this passage of time with emails because I think they give an interesting snapshot into life, as the things people email each other about are vast and often change depending on the stage of life one is in.

For the format of the book, I wanted to play with the idea of snail mail versus email, so I displayed the emails in the form of letters in an envelope. But I also included the email formatting on the letters and the front of the envelope, combining the two forms of mail. I think that the combination of these forms highlights that these emails are special, as they have been selected from thousands of digital letters and made into a physical form.

The imagery in this book was done using linoleum blocks. I carved images that correspond with each email into the blocks, and then printed them by painting the block, laying paper over it, and running over it with a rolling pin. I then went over the best prints with pen in order to make the details stand out. I then scanned each image and formatted them digitally onto the emails before printing them out in color.

I was able to take a pad of rice paper with me from Claremont, so I printed all of the emails onto that and cut them to the correct size. I also used the rice paper to fold the envelopes, which also have an accordion bottom that holds each page.

Because of our change of location, many of the methods I planned on using for this project had to be changed. Instead of printing text with the press, I typed and formatted it in Scribus and printed using an office printer. I also would normally have printed my linocut images on the press instead of using a rolling pin. While the image making method was much less precise at home, it did give me the freedom to digitize my files which allowed me to resize and experiment with placement. I used a similar binding technique to what I was planning on doing on campus, but I had to make the book smaller in order to accommodate the size of paper that my printer could use. I also was not able to make as many copies, due to limited materials and time. Overall, the change of location definitely limited the resources and methods that I could use, but it also allowed me to rethink my book as a whole and experiment with new ways of image making and formatting.