

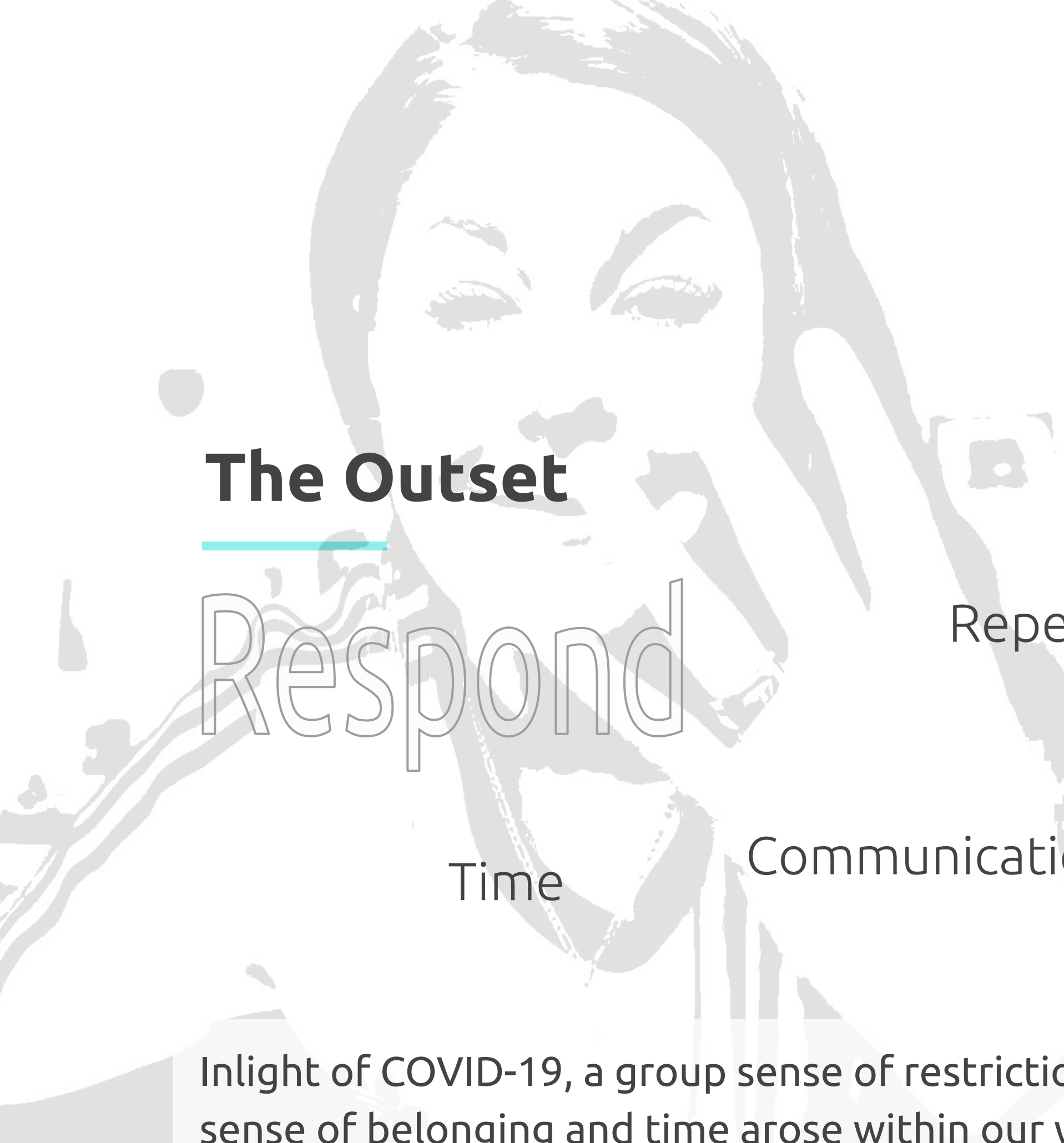


Cancel Culture

Respond | Research | Create

Movement

Refers to the popular practice of withdrawing support for (cancelling) public figures and companies after they have done or said something considered objectionable or offensive. Cancel culture is generally discussed as being performed on social media in the form of group shaming.



The Outset

Respond

Time Communications

Inlight of COVID-19, a group sense of restriction, sense of belonging and time arose within our work.

These commonalities led to the underpinning Sustainable Development Goal no.10 - *Reduced Inequalities* that we would address in this project. Capturing snapshots of our experiences fueled the initial drive for us to explore a modern movement & social justice issue.

A Moment in Time



Repression

Iconic

Accessibility

Reconnections

Limitation



Sense of Place



Belonging

Family



Idea generation

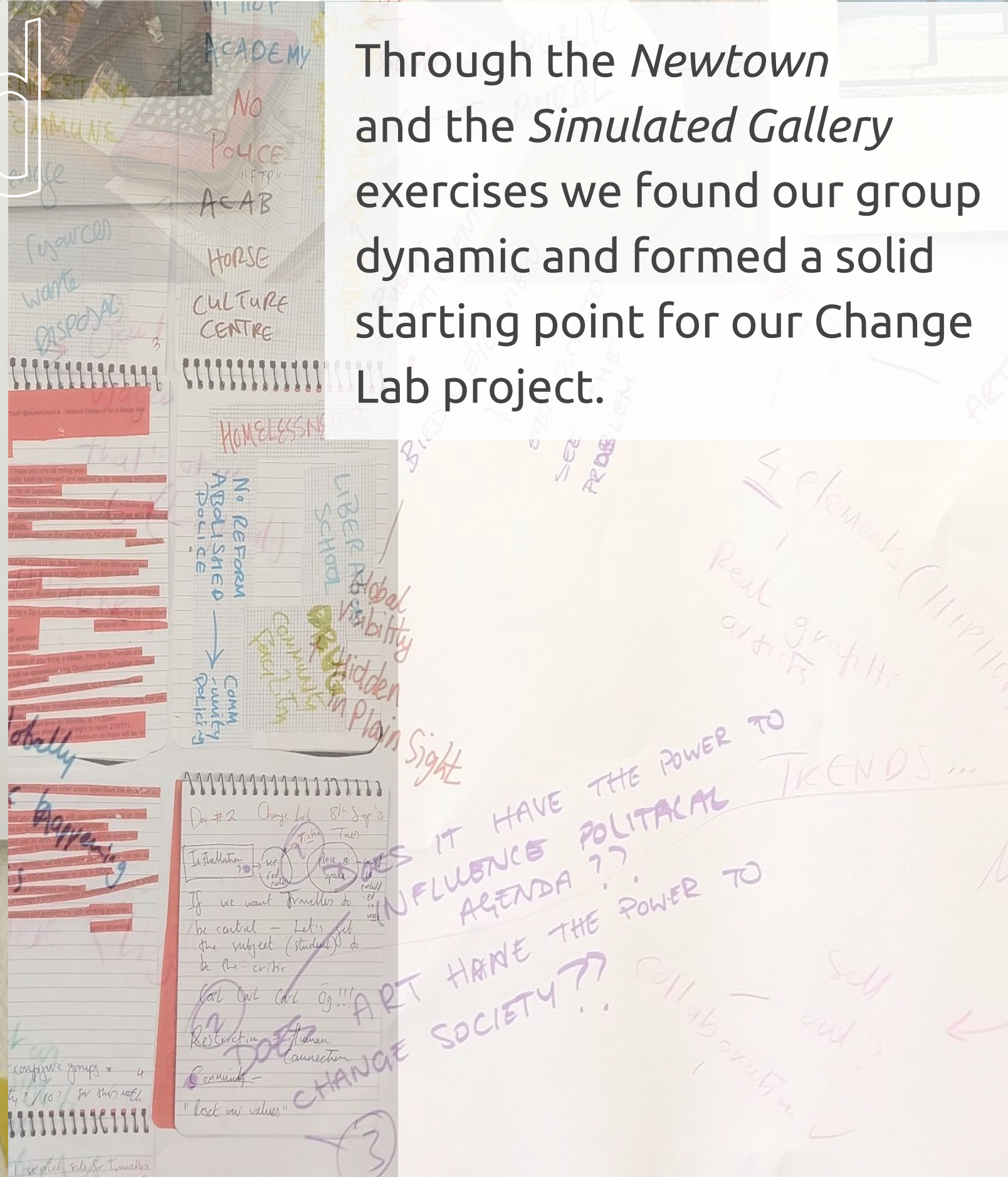



As a group of artists/designers/researchers we talked about issues of oppressed groups in society, the power of words, language, public debate and identity.

Respond

Through the *Newtown* and the *Simulated Gallery* exercises we found our group dynamic and formed a solid starting point for our Change Lab project.

10. Reduced INEQUALITY
Reducing Inequalities and ensuring no one is left behind are integral to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Not being out





“It is now all too common to hear calls for swift and severe retribution in response to perceived transgressions of speech and thought.”

— *A Letter on Justice and Open Debate*
signed by 150 writers and academics,
Harper's, July 7 2020.

Search for a word

filter bubble

noun

a situation in which an Internet user encounters only information and opinions that conform to and reinforce their own beliefs, caused by algorithms that personalize an individual's online experience. "the personalization of the web could gradually isolate individual users into their own filter bubbles"



"When does 'cancelling' cross over with bullying?" asks the psychologist, lecturer and author Dr Audrey Tang.

"Cancel culture: a force for good or a threat to free speech?" - Zoe Williams (writer)

"The journalist and author Owen Jones argued on Twitter that "All too often, 'cancel culture' becomes a means for very rich and very powerful people to pretend they are victims when people respond to very controversial things they have used their huge public platform to say"

The trans activist Munroe Bergdorf says, "cancel culture is not the same as being held accountable for your actions".

"Is it a useful tool for social justice or a form of censorship?" - Barney Warf (US scientist)

Initial Research

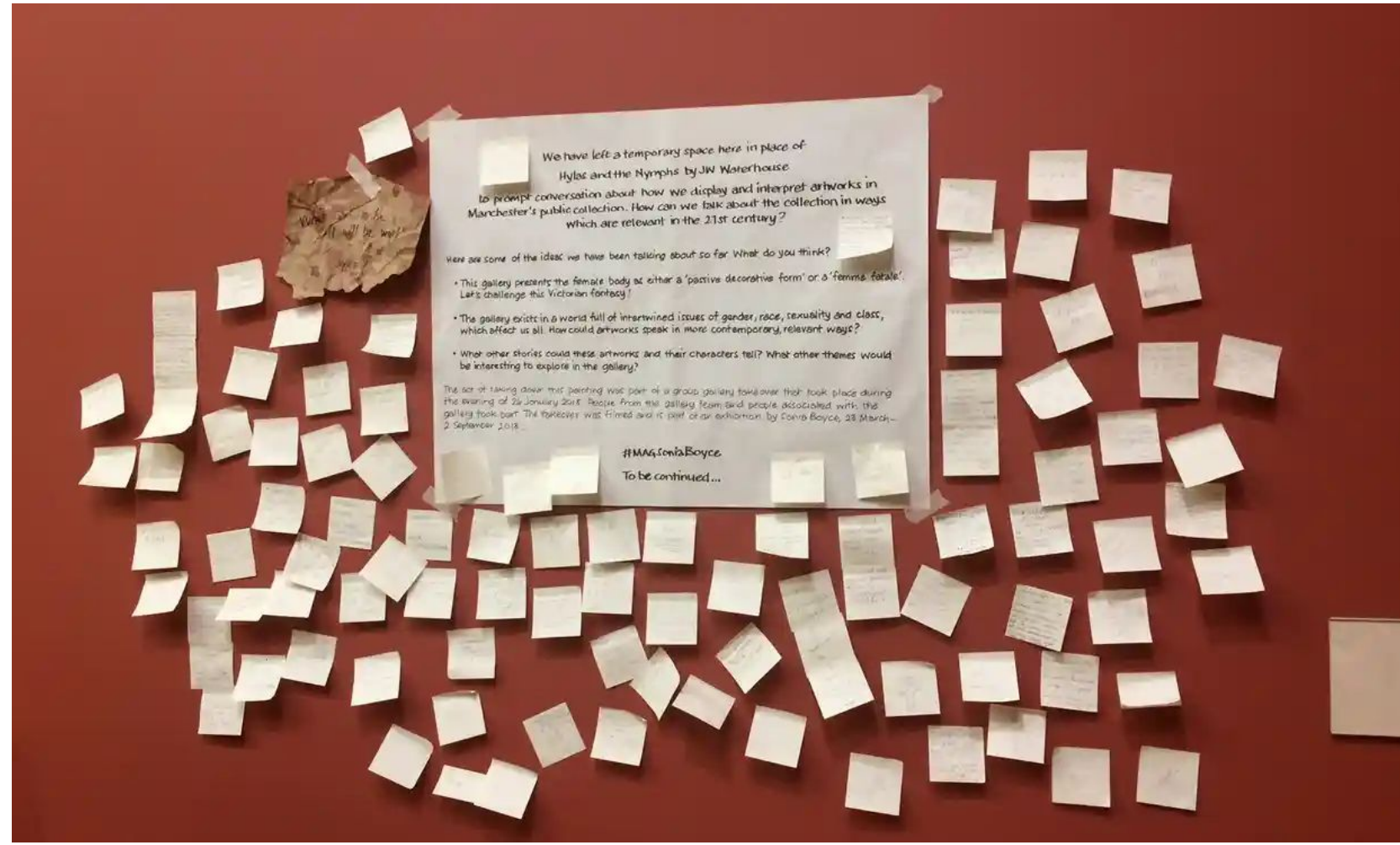
Research



"intolerance of opposing views [and] a vogue for public shaming and ostracism" - Margaret Atwood

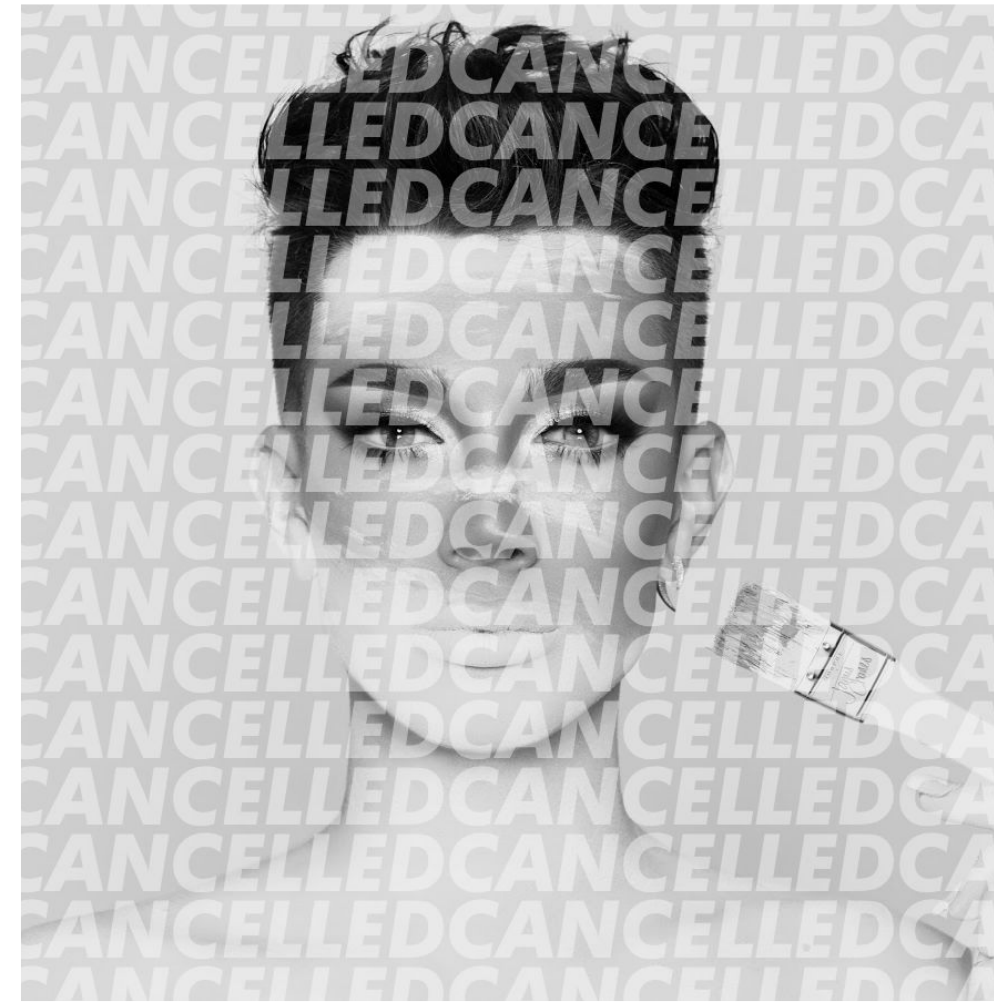
"Free speech has always had consequences, especially when that speech has the potential for harm" - Stanley Fish (New York Times)

Exclusion / Inclusion / Democracy / Liberation / Sustainable / Social Justice / Weaken Open Debate



Manchester Art Gallery - Taking down of Hylas and the Nymphs

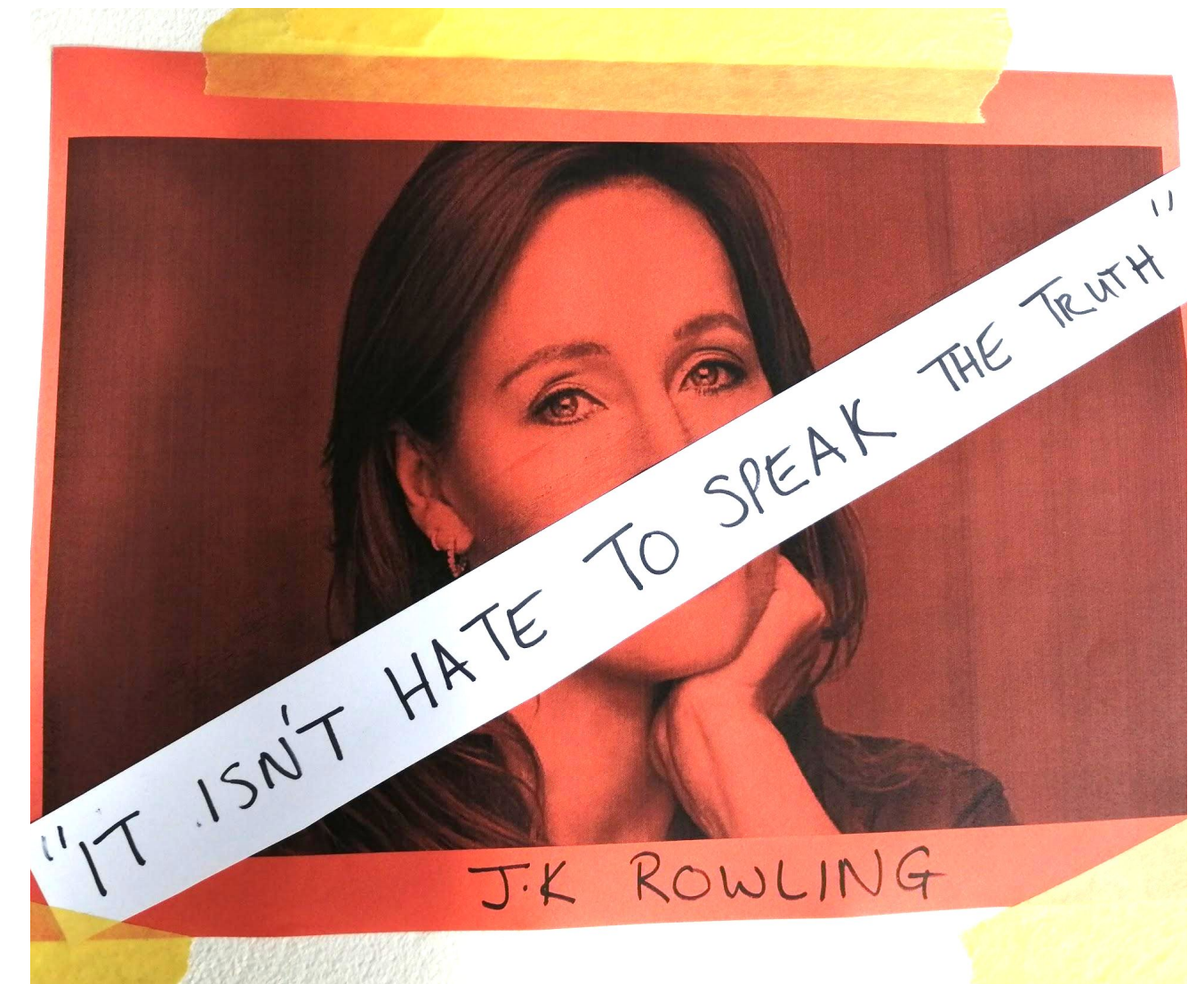
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/feb/06/takedown-waterhouse-naked-nymphs-art-action-manchester-art-gallery-sonia-boyce>



James Charles

'The impact was immediate; James has gone from being a beloved star to an icon of 'cancelled culture.' He's been rapidly rejected by fans en-mass, losing over 3 million subscribers in mere days (one of the biggest losses of subscribers in YouTube history).'

—Thinkhouse.ie



J.K Rowling

Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling came under fire in early June for controversial tweets she posted about the transgender community. Her stance has caused fans and stars like Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, and Eddie Redmayne to speak out against her.

Focused Research

Research



Photograph: Charliesamuels.com © 2005 Jenny Holzer courtesy Creative Time and Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Jenny Holzer
Is an American neo-conceptual artist, based in Hoosick, New York. The main focus of her work is the delivery of words and ideas in public spaces.



Victoria Villasana - *Fashion Revolutionaries*
is a textile artist, interested in cultures & human spirit, looking at how cultures connect to each other in a fragmented, post-digital world. The dynamism in his work stems from the way the thread is left uncut, far below the frame, giving a surreal aesthetic that reflects the acceptance of transience and imperfection.



Ed Ruscha - *It's Payback Time*, 2001

'In one sense the absent text evacuates the image of the violent threat, suggesting that the blanks be read as bandages for the treacherous landscape of the American West. However, in relation to Ruscha's larger body of work – which includes many text-based prints and paintings – the redaction also suggest gagging or censorship.' Tate.org.uk



Maser
The large Repeal the Eighth mural by artist Maser has been painted over



Banksy
Follow Your Dreams Cancelled

Does Cancel Culture kill free speech?

How PLATFORMS COLONISE
TIKTOK - CAROL 54
RECITATION
PUBLIC EXECUTION
CIVIC ASSASSINATION



HOMOPROTEST
BELONGFAMILYCAR
SAFE LOVE OPEN FRIEND
RESPECT KINDNESS

Experimental redactive work

We looked at the fear that people have of expressing their opinions, how opportunity for debate and integrity is crushed, and their thoughts homogenised.

What is Activism?

The doctrine or practice of vigorous action or involvement as a means of achieving political or other goals, sometimes by demonstrations, protests, etc.

Cancel Culture & Activism

Research



Idea development

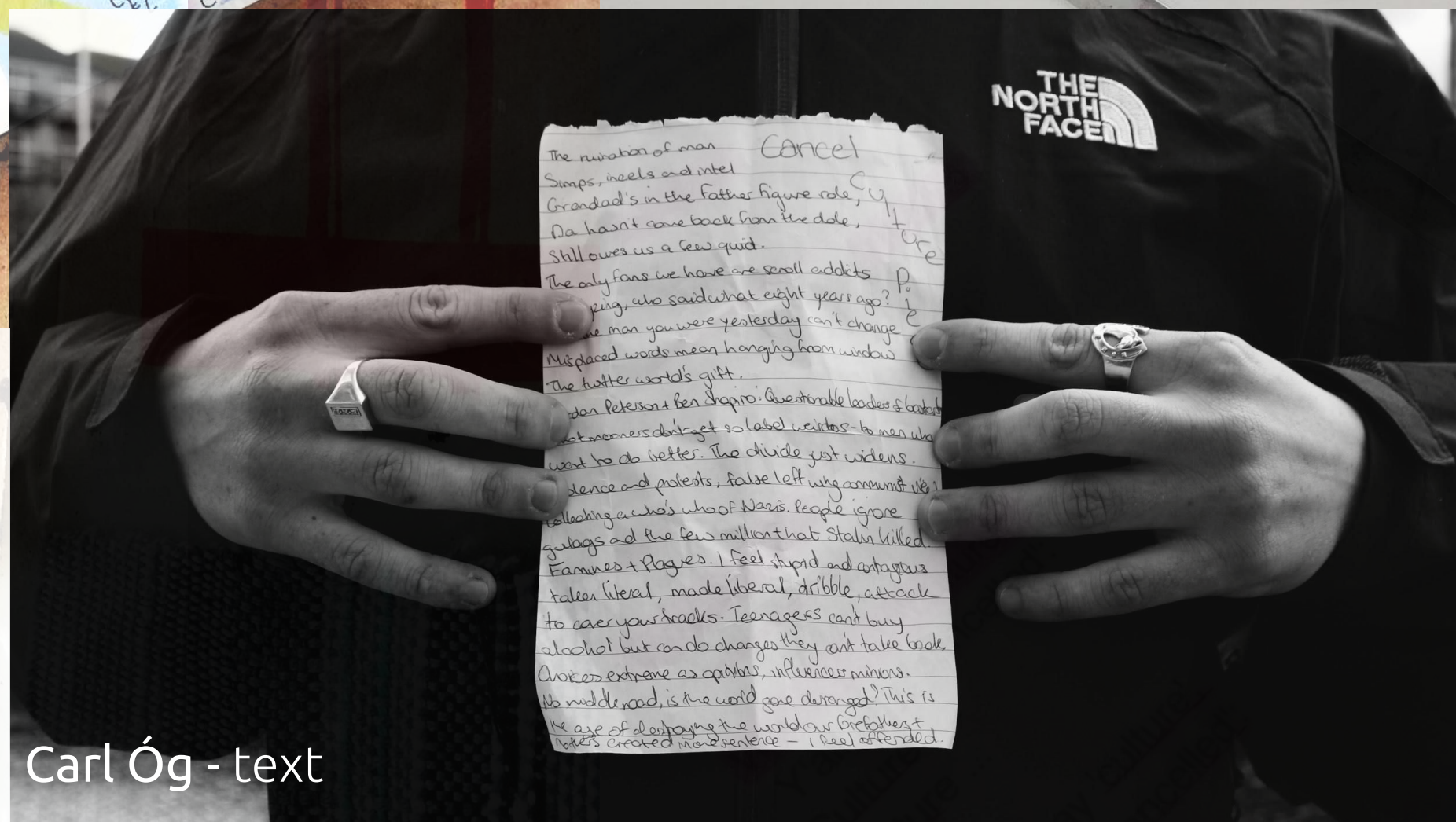
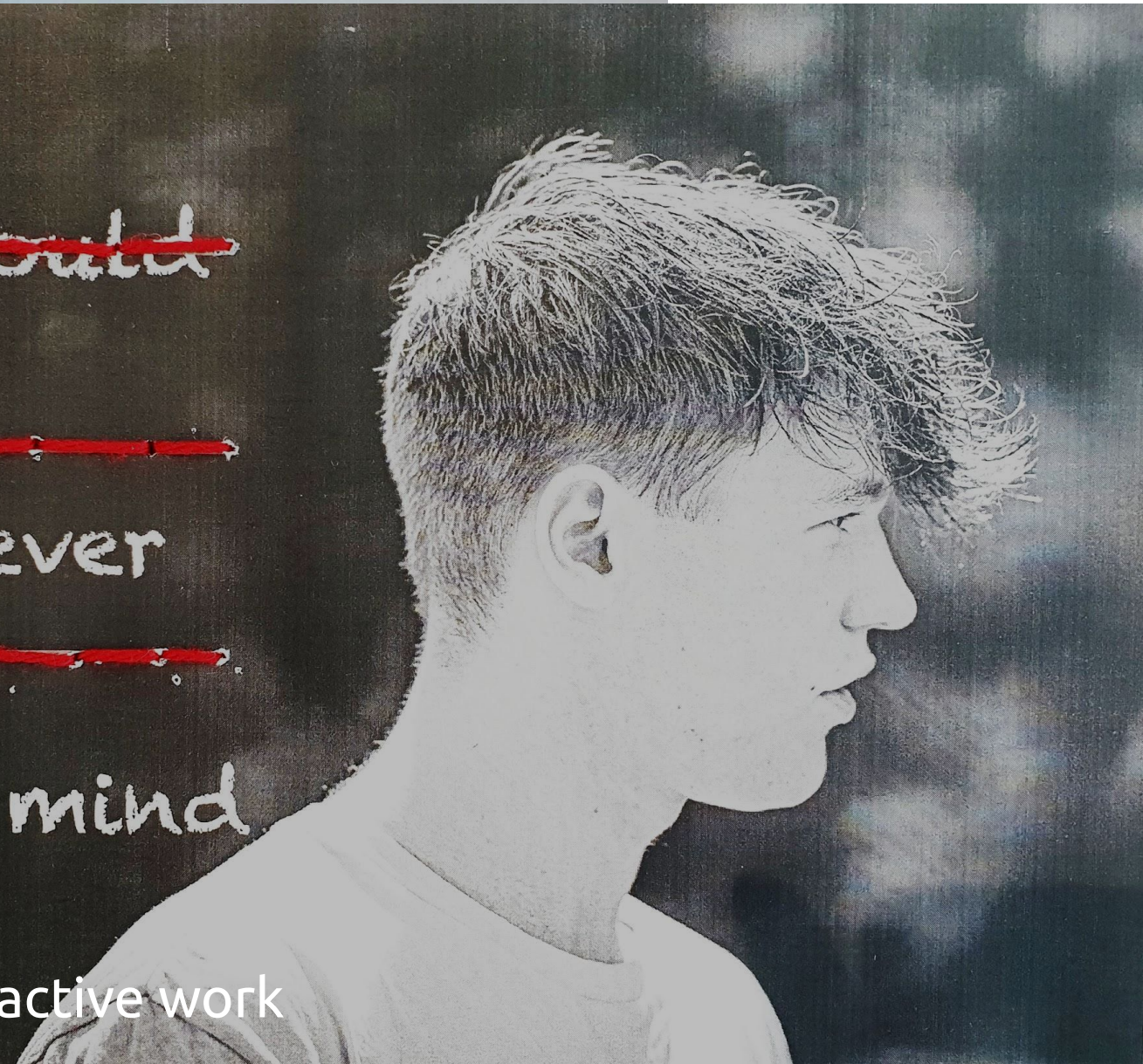
Create

We engaged with a young poet/artist Carl Óg to write a piece about *Cancel Culture*. His insightful prose focused the angle of our work, which we redacted, obstructed and censored to highlight the impact of *Cancel Culture*.

Through the lense of spoken, written and visual text, imagery and material we delve into the model of being *CANCELLED*....

I
~~Wish I could~~
Can't
~~Need to~~
Could Never
~~Should~~
Speak My mind

Experimental redactive work



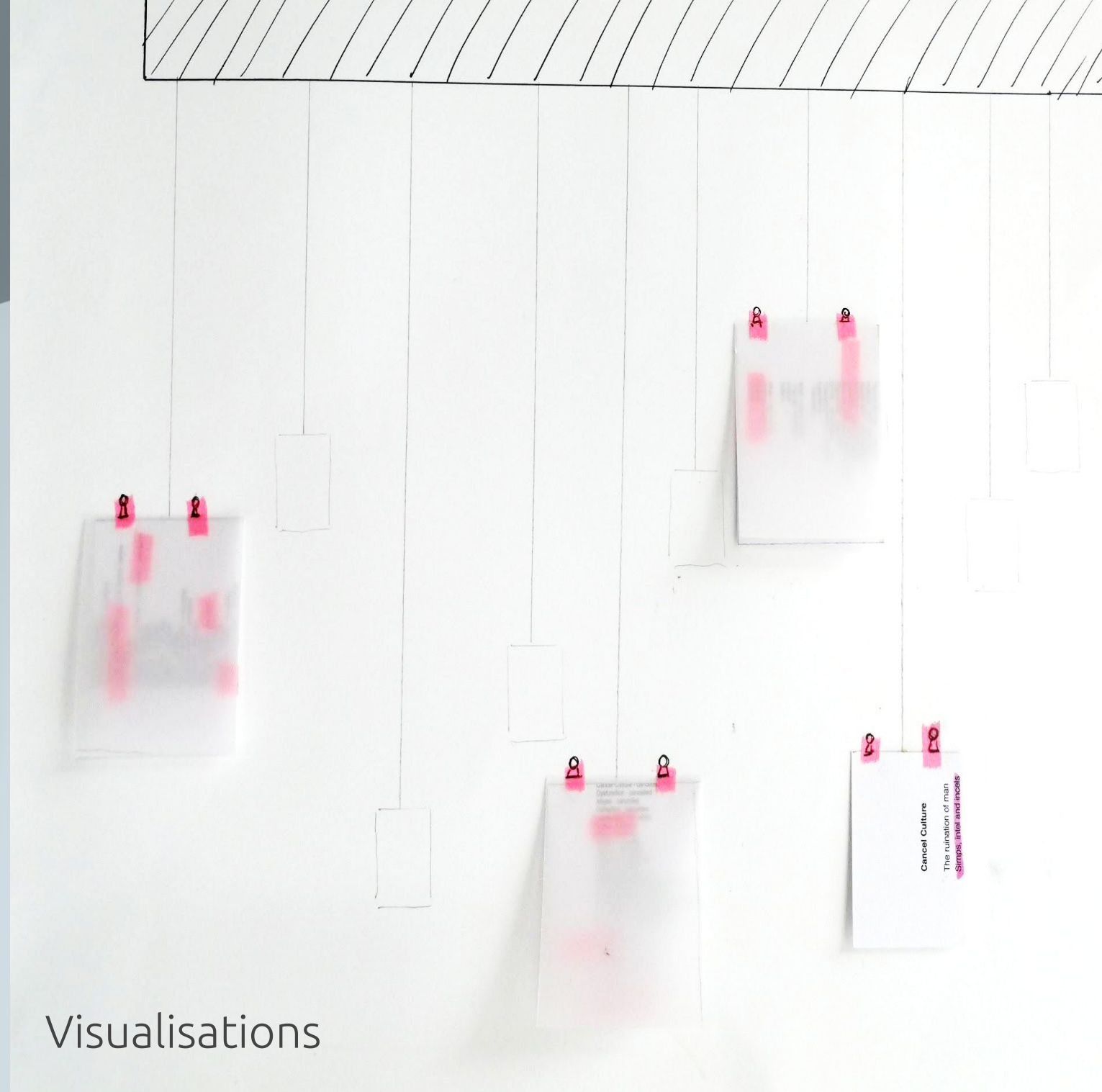
Carl Óg - text

activist
/'aktivist/

noun

adjective

Experimental redactive work



Visualisations



Experimental redactive work



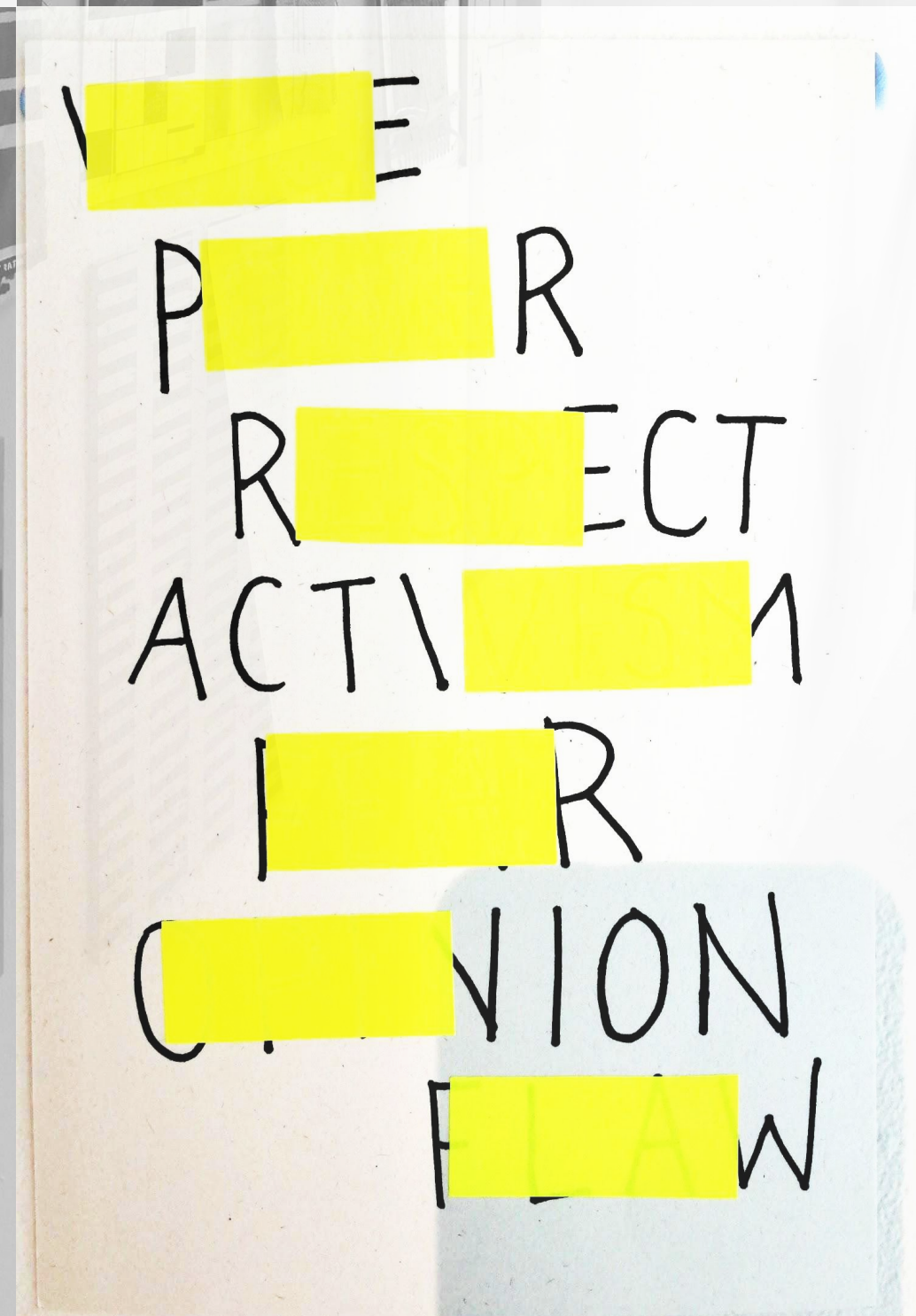
Experimental redactive work

The values we hold and our practices as Artists and Designers instill our approach to educational philosophy. By facilitating debate and fostering curiosity we create an opportunity for free speech amongst students.



The process & creating

Create



The conclusion

Create

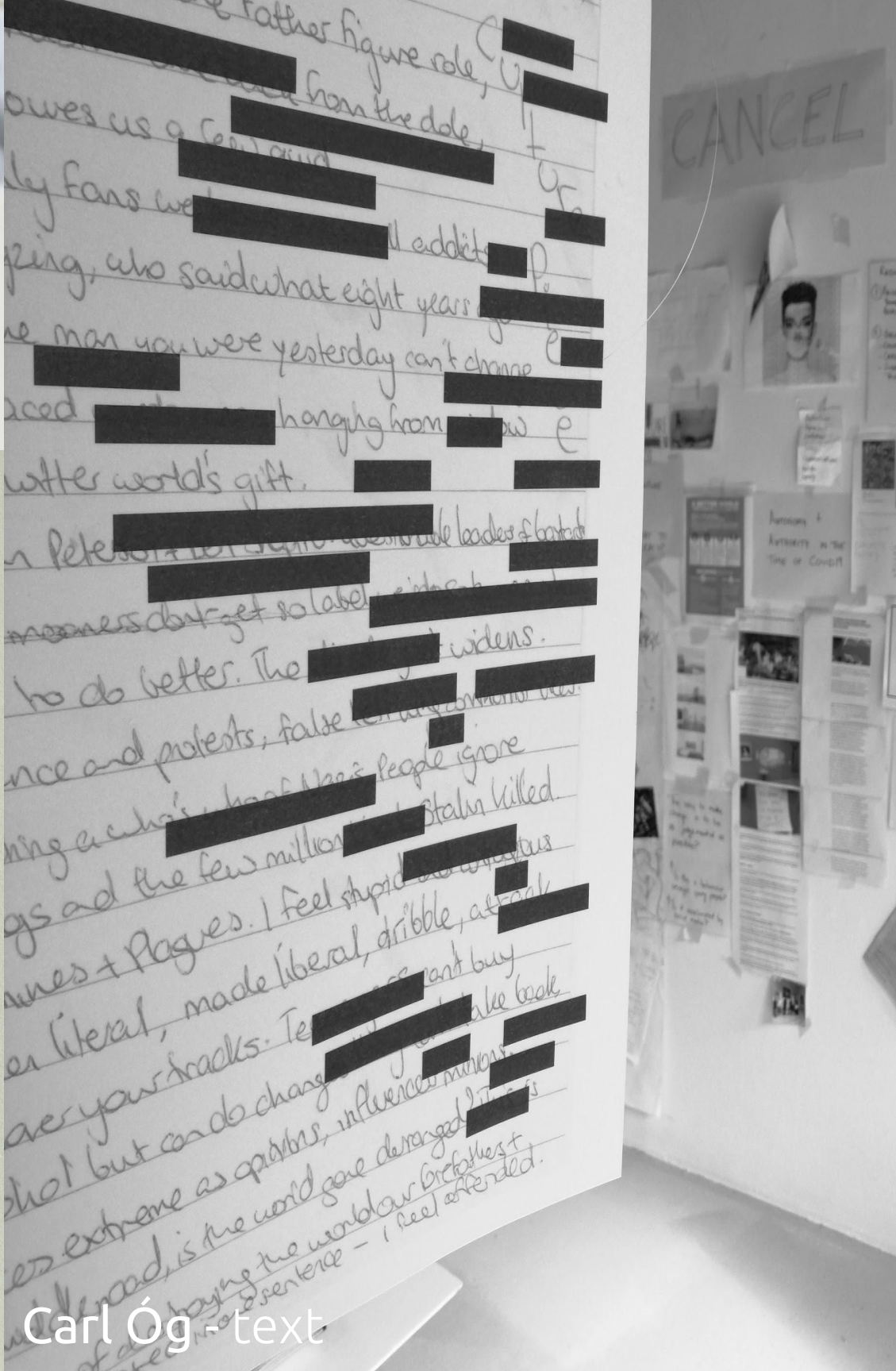
Our series of redacted works on paper are concerned with cancel culture and how it obstructs language and distorts meaning.

The installation is accompanied by an audio recording of Carl Óg reciting his poem *Cancel Culture*.

I feel
stupid and
contagious
taken
literal

Carl Óg - Photography & text

Photography & text samples



Carl Óg - text

