HAZEL GRAHAM 23042320 UNIT 2: WEEK 5 POSITIONS THROUGH CONTEXTUALISING

# Unit 2: Week 5 Positions Through Contextualising

Where I was:

- Other ways to develop the subversion of design within the constraints of maintaining some affordance to magazine design.
- Develop the subversion of the text. It felt subverted by the fact that it was academic writing in a magazine format, and through its position and layout (in the image boxes). I need to think more about the text conventions I removed immediately (which was a subversion or reframing?).
- Think about how far the subversion wants to go. At the moment the text runs through the gutter so would be illegible if printed and bound as a publication. Do I want to subvert this far or am I interested in developing something that is subverted and challenging but also "commercial"?
- Develop the actual writing, challenging the actual langauge and construction of the text; challenging the affordance of academic writing perhaps?
- Think more deeply about how each element is affordant, how I can subvert its affordance, but retain some affordance to magazine design? What are these conditions?

## **Extended Bibliography**

UNIT 2: WEEK 5 POSITIONS THROUGH CONTEXTUALISING

Reflection on writing:

- Too convoluted
- Too many ideas
- Too complicated
- Definitely not a "coherent story well told"
- Couldn't find my focus
- Over thinking
- Tried taking it into my medium to help me develop the writing

### UNIT 2: WEEK 5 POSITIONS THROUGH CONTEXTUALISING





magazine design then subvert it in small ways rather than it look nothing like a magazine spread. The pay off was the surprise that it wasn't what it looked like it was. A deception of perception if you will...

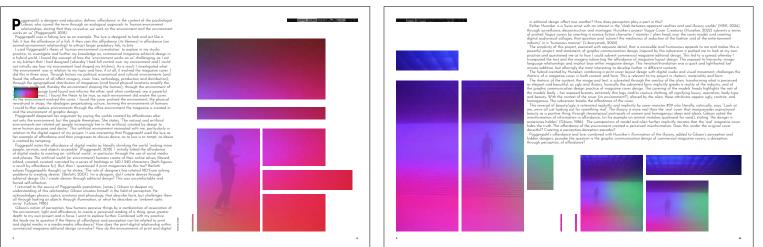
I started looking back at Vogue (as Esther Hunziker's reference was) covers and found nothing had changed in cover or cover content over 100 years, which fed directly into my essay. I wasn't sure how to show this without doing the typical blocking out of words, removing image etc. So I created alt alt text that subverted alt text by exposing the implicit connotations of the image rather than describing the image. I overliad them as if on a screen to simultaneously demonstrate hybirisation and subversion.

I changed the fonts in light of the lecuture by Femke and Hanka, who highlighted their fonts from amazing sources that showcase female typographical designers to demonstrate better female representation and my position on female representation.

I also chose the headline font to have personality. Influenced by the lecture 'Typographic Neutrality' by Assa. Having loved neutral fonts for so long, I have shifted my position and want to express more individualism, and highlight the wide spread homogenisation in the market (and advertising). And to represent my values more strongly.

I chose Movement as the headline font as it was based on "the inner intention of the dancer" and I believe all design should be based on innter intention.

### UNIT 2: WEEK 5 POSITIONS THROUGH CONTEXTUALISING



### I reverted back to the interation of my previous set of iterations to try again.

### UNIT 2: WEEK 5 POSITIONS THROUGH CONTEXTUALISING





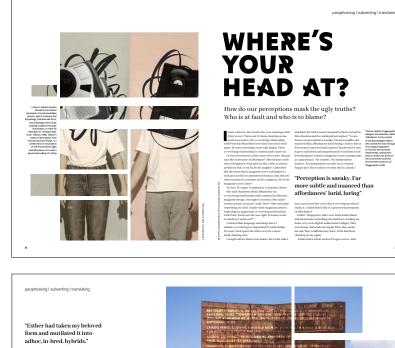
I put the words back into the text boxes and flipped the layout to reflect it on the opposite page for the image.

I attempted to write each section as the first page of a feature, that is actually all one feature, to challenge the affordance of a feature layout. I left the text in shaded boxes that highlight the position came before the content, again to highlight affordance of a magazine spread, its constraints and constructs that make it recognisable as such but the implicit bias that comes with that.

I kept the main image as the 'text boxes as image boxes' to illustrate to co-evolving relationship between text and image and to break the affordance to expose this relationship. I flipped the layout for the second spread (classic pace and flow technicality of editorial design) which showed this relationship afftecing one another which forced the text to be right aligned which then did not allow for a neat drop cap.

By the third spread I fel this wsan't working so moved on...

### UNIT 2: WEEK 5 POSITIONS THROUGH CONTEXTUALISING





I went back to the iterated layout with the image box as text boxes, as I liked this part as exolicitly showing the relationship between text and image. I took my standard magazine layout and subverted the affordance in subtle ways to reflect the concept of affordance and perception, that it goes unnoticed.

My previous practice highlighted that the words always come first in magazine layout design, so I kept the layout exactly as it was and wrote into the spread. I made the words fit the space, rather than the space fit the words. This helped my writing that I had been struggling with. I had too many ideas and it was convoluted and had no identifiable theme. It was also very academic (and a bit dull). I really wanted to subvert the conventions of academic writing as much as magazine design. To acknowledge the context of my context. I am being taught to think and write in a specific way, that is of Central Saint Martins and Academia. That affects my position and context as well as my position and context within my references.

Writing directly into the spread allowed me to move away from the deeply ingrained position I found myself in. I managed to zoom out of my topic and used paraphrasing, of my own academic text, to create the medium. The academic text was quite heavy and negative. I'd thought about writing in the style of Adbusters, or very academically to contradict its environment, but I wanted it to be light and enjoyable and thought provoking and positive. This idea was materilaise through Anoushka's workshop on Ways of Seeing. She introduced me to Berger and his Ways of Seeing as a "construct" which was eye opening and soul freeing. Anoushka asked "How would a woman design it". Good question. I thought 'how would a woman write it?' without the constraints of the conventions of the format, that are rooted in patriarchal logic, linear and (academic?) systems.

Through writing directly into the layout a central theme emerged. It was all about relationships, and as I contextualised it in a relationship, this suddenly became clear. It was written on all my diagram notes etc, but through making, it emerged most strongly and pulled the piece together.

I subverted the page paraphenalia to expose the conventions of commercial editorial magazine design, to highlight affordance, perception, deception and to meet the academic criteria (see next page).



### paraphrasing I subverting I translating

### WHERE'S YOUR HEAD AT?

#### How do our perceptions mask the ugly truths? Who is at fault and who is to blame?

ght I created it. She said I said "Heat?" She said

transp. See your muniking with shad allow all for such a small in fast your all must find your all for shad allow all for such a small in fast your all must find your all shad allow all for such a small find your all for such as the start of the small for such as the small find your all for all for small your all you all for such as the small find your all for such as the small find your all for small find you for small find you all for small find you all for small find you for small find you all for small find you all for small find you for small find you all for small find you all find you for small find you all for small find you all find you for small find you all find you all find you have for find find you all find you all find you have for find find you all find you all find you have for find find you all find you all find you have for find find you all find you all find you have for find find you all find you all find you have for find find you all find you all find you have for find find you all find you have for find find you all find you have for find find you have for the find you have for find find you have for the find you have for find find you have for the find you have for find find you have for the find you have for find find you have for the find you have for find find you have for the fi

#### more subtle and nuanced than affordances' lurid luring"

a have uncovered the cover that is covering up what it really is. I asked him fifthis is a preceived preception of affordance. The source of the source of the source of and showed me sourching also had been working on Some very cost, digital, audiovisual collages. They were founy and made me laught, then they made me and. They reallowed my farsa. Print had been cheating on me again.

36

#### How I subverted commercial editorial magazine design

**Picture captions:** I placed the 'academic bits' that didn't fit in tone to the flow of the writing in the picture captions, subverting their function whilst still appeasing the academic part. I used 'hidden' symbols (Alt+letter) as directions to the footnotes.

**Picture credit:** I placed my Harvrad referencing in the picture caption to subert their function whilst still adhereing to academic convention (for my university context) without it interrupting the flow of the text.

**Headline:** Reflective of my state of mind throughout this essay.

Fonts: Chosen as they are created by women as illuminated by Femke De Vries and Hanka van der Voet in the lecture 'Critical Fashion Practice'. The headline font is expressive rather than neutral, influenced by Azza Alameddine's lecture on Typographic Neutrality, to not be the same as everything else, to not be afraid to express something. Also the story behind the font is really fitting. Based on the movement of South African dancer, its rooted in the "inner intention of the dancer". This aligned with the Anoushka Khandwala workshop and aligns with myself and my writing became led by my inner intention. To design through values.

**Slug:** Highlights what I am doing in the piece, for academic quantification.

**Pull quotes:** I kept the pull quotes as I love pull quotes and value them hugely, I want the essay to be

something people want to read, so they are alluring and possibly lurid, and I need to think about more! But in my defence this was keeping "enough of the old to accpet the new" as Jencks and Silver note.

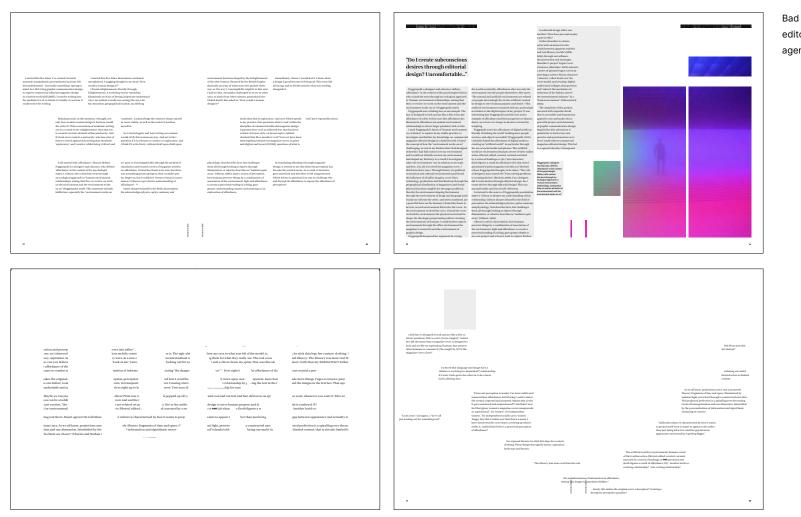
Language: I really didn't want it to be dull, academic, convoluted writing. I really want it to be accessible, but deeply rooted academia. I love any academic text that is witty, dry, acerbic (Adbusters), funny, light, graphic. I have an ongoing debate in my head about 'dumbing down' but I really don't think anything that has deep roots, good values and says something with intentions of postiive change is dumbing down.

**Image:** I loved the retro image I came across as it visually said what the text was saying. A relationship (two entities holding hands), but with media heads, that are scrambled.It's also got its watermark (Unsplash which I have to acknowledge as a source and its context and inherent bias), its also reveresed in the boxes so it reads backwards. All of this draws attention to its hidden, implicit postions, connotations and signifyers.

**Grid:** I kept the traditional print grid for the layout, party as I am too ingrained in it, partly so it would deceive and be perceived as a commercial editorial layout. This is the next part of the challenge for me. How would a woman design it?

**References:** My two main references (protagonists) were women, the supporting cast were men. Subtext and context of female representation.

UNIT 2: WEEK 5 POSITIONS THROUGH CONTEXTUALISING



Bad experimentations of subverting commercial editorial design, but starting to explore space, time, agency, subversion, womens perspective.

- How would a woman design it?
- There is something about desire lines, associations, journeys, storytelling, thoughts all coming at the same time, like dreams, and how that looks on a page (or not a page?).
- A blurring of ideas and co-evolution of thoughts, that need to be legible, but expressive, of this non linear pathway.
- Lines like staves of music, each thread has its own line and the weave (this has come up lots in my thinking over the last week) in and out of one another, like a dance (inspired by music / movement type?) shows time passing in a different way?
- I need to read John Berger, Ways of Seeing to understand constructed ways of seeing. To unconstruct my implicit constructed way of seeing. To make the viewer not the centre, to give the reader more agency.
- Images smaller (but I like big images?) to change the hierarchy. Can I use blacked out
  magazine covers to punctuate the words with the words on the cover to highlight same
  and focus on appearance / projection? Images as negatives to subvert perception / show
  transparency / expose construction

HAZEL GRAHAM 23042320

### End