

University of
Chester

The Bookbinding Workshop:

making as collaborative pedagogic practice

GLAD Conference
Sheffield Hallam University
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Elizabeth Kealy-Morris

Senior University Teaching Fellow, Faculty of Arts & Media
Senior Lecturer in Graphic Design
e.kealymorris@chester.ac.uk

**“The value of
engagement is no
longer questioned.”**

(Trowler & Trowler, 2010, p.9)

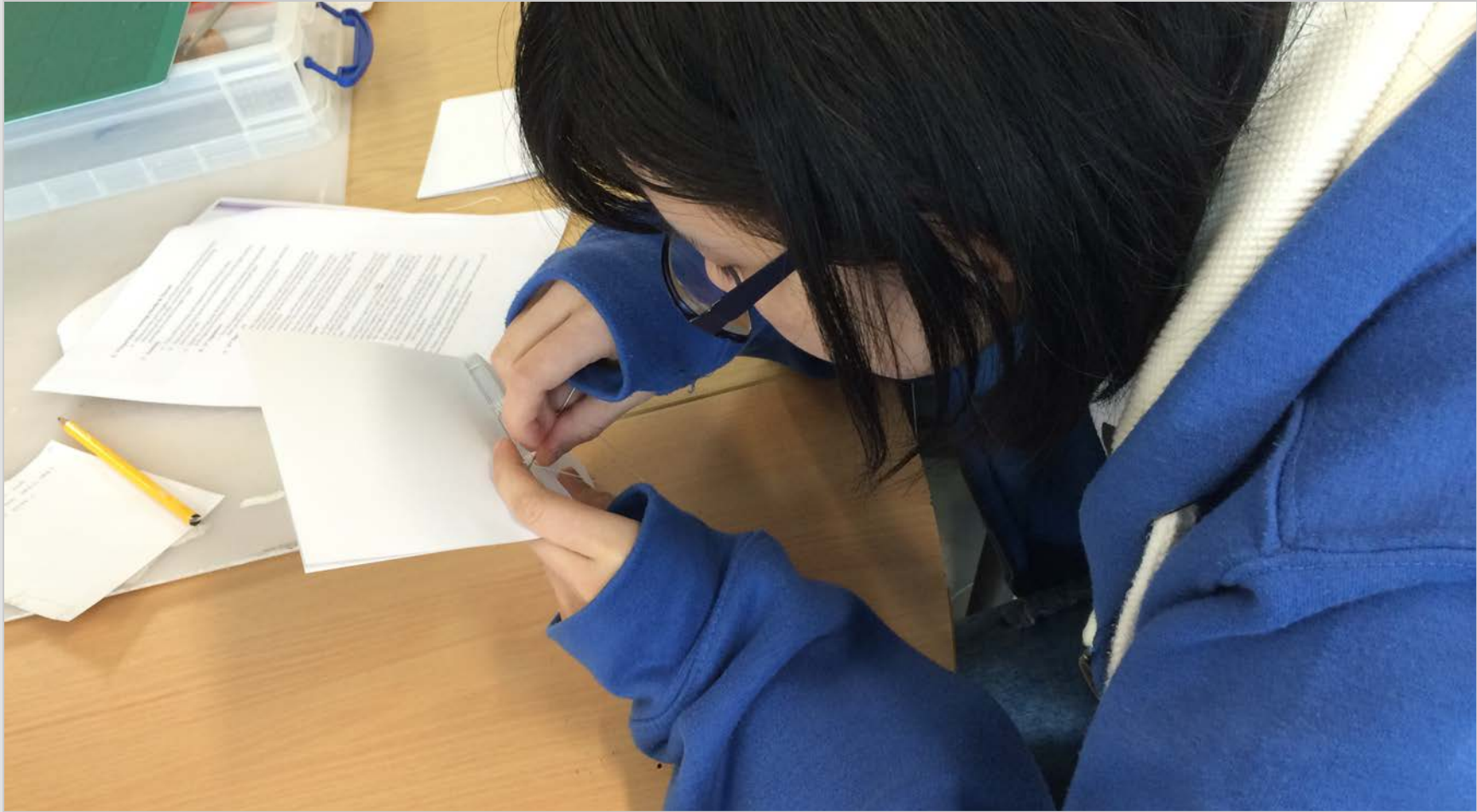




Department of Art & Design

- **Bookbinding Workshops** (with Elizabeth Kealy-Morris, Graphics lecturer)
 - Tuesdays
 - Book Arts Studio (at the back of the gallery)

	Wk 26 (27/1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to Bookbinding • 10-1pm 	Wk 27 (03/2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stitched Structures 1 • 10-1pm 	Wk 28 (10/2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stitched Structures 2 • 10-1pm
1	Sarah Spencer	Sarah Spencer	Sarah Spencer
2	CALVIN WOODWORTH	CALVIN WOODWORTH	CALVIN WOODWORTH
3	Charlotte Whysall	Charlotte Whysall	Charlotte Whysall
4	Sodie Howard	Megan Hunter	Megan Hunter
5	Kerri Mackay		
6	Megan Hunter		
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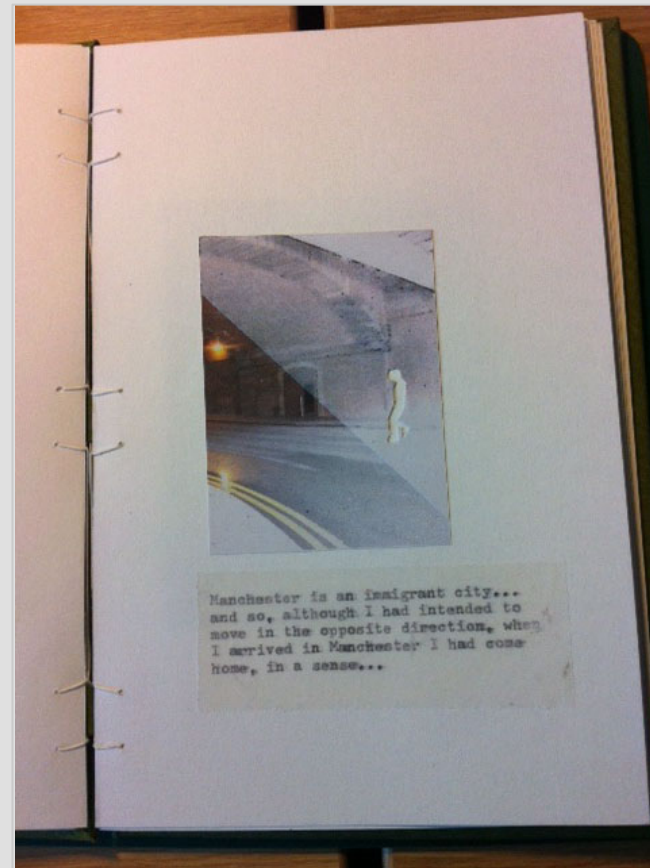
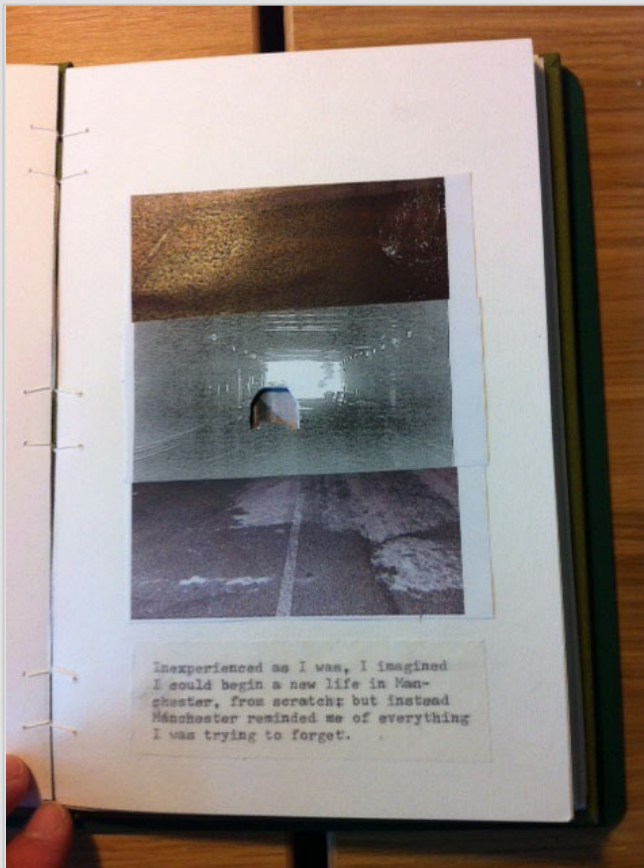
The Artist Book

“...a book created as an original work of art, rather than a reproduction of a preexisting work and ... is a book which integrates the formal means of its realization and production with its thematic or aesthetic issues.”

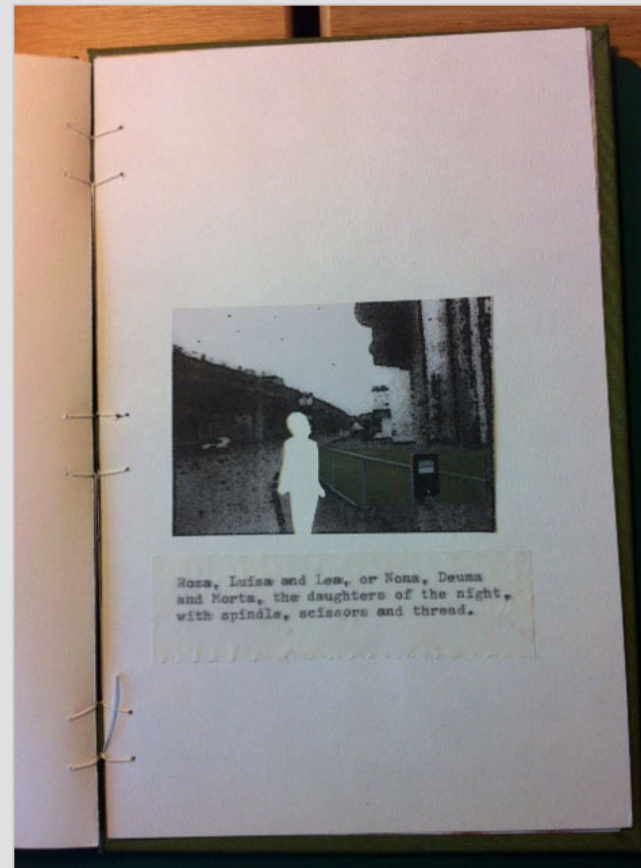
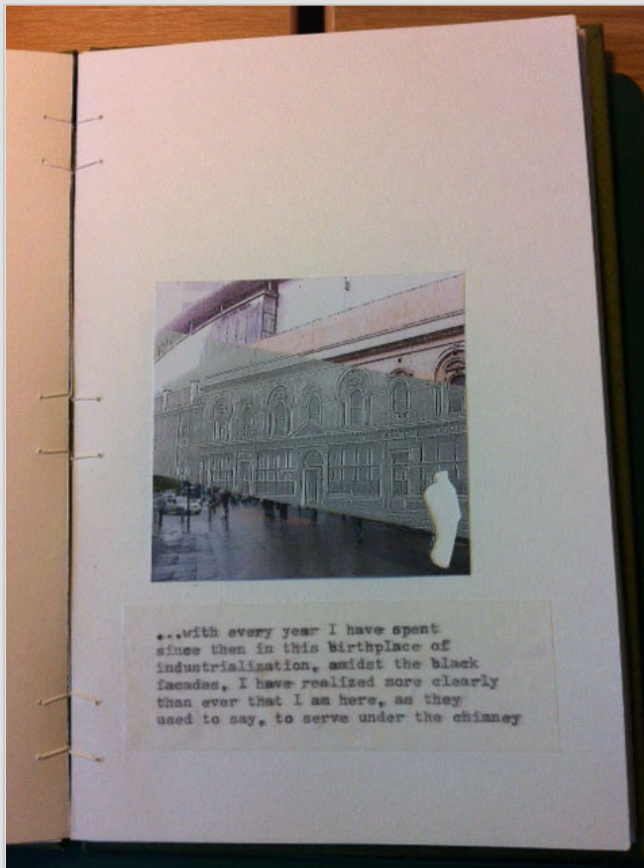
(Drucker, 2004, p.2)



Elizabeth Kealy-Morris, *Leaving: a work in progress*, 2012



Elizabeth Kealy-Morris, *Leaving: a work in progress*, 2012



Elizabeth Kealy-Morris, *Leaving: a work in progress*, 2012

“Attending the bookbinding workshops has...”

Bookbinding workshop participants, 2013 & 2014
University of Chester

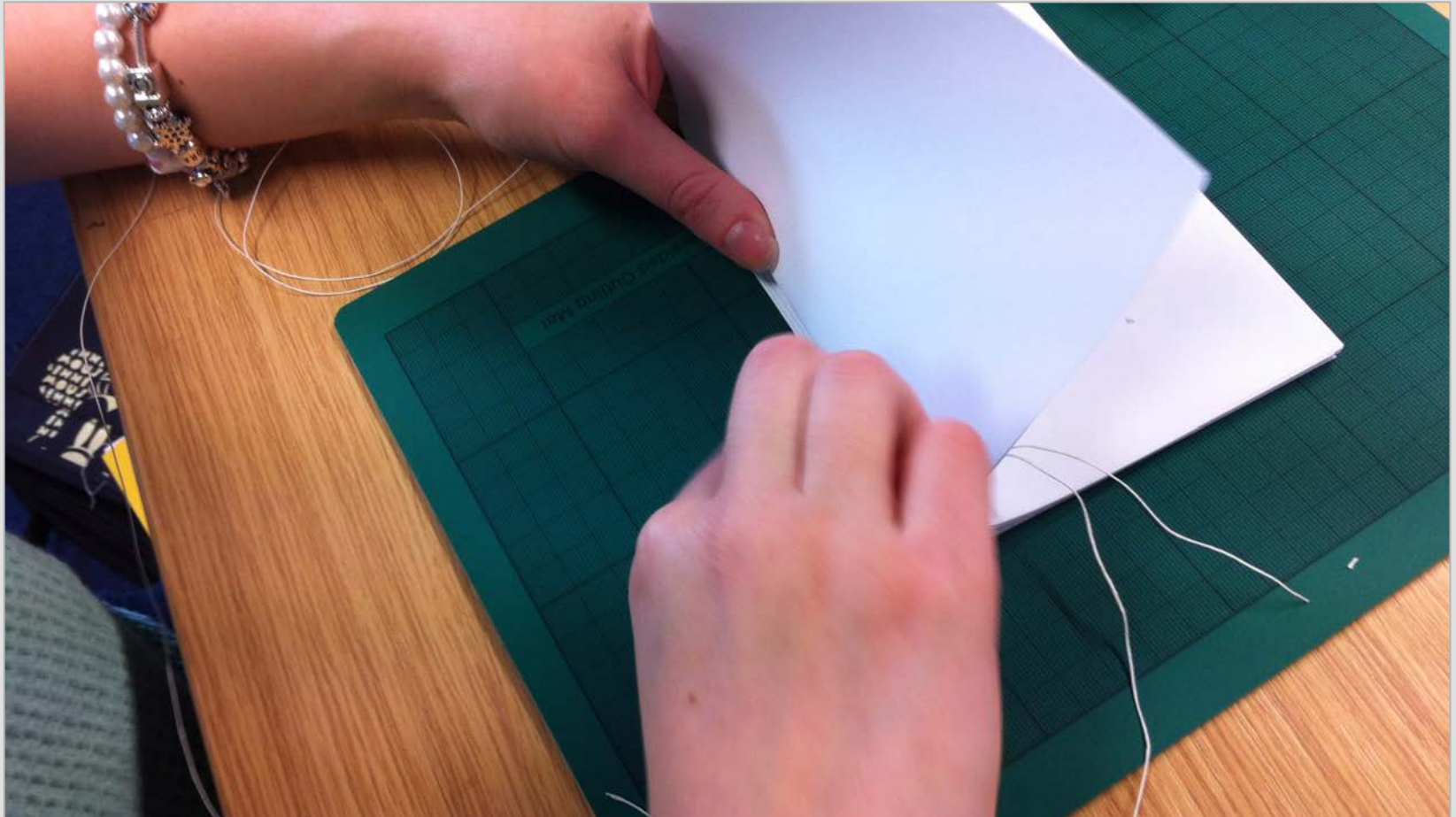
“...satisfied a long seated desire to learn about book making and binding. I now have the basic skills required to begin to experiment with book forms to enable me to produce bespoke one off pieces that work in unison with the internal artworks” (Respondent 3, 2013).



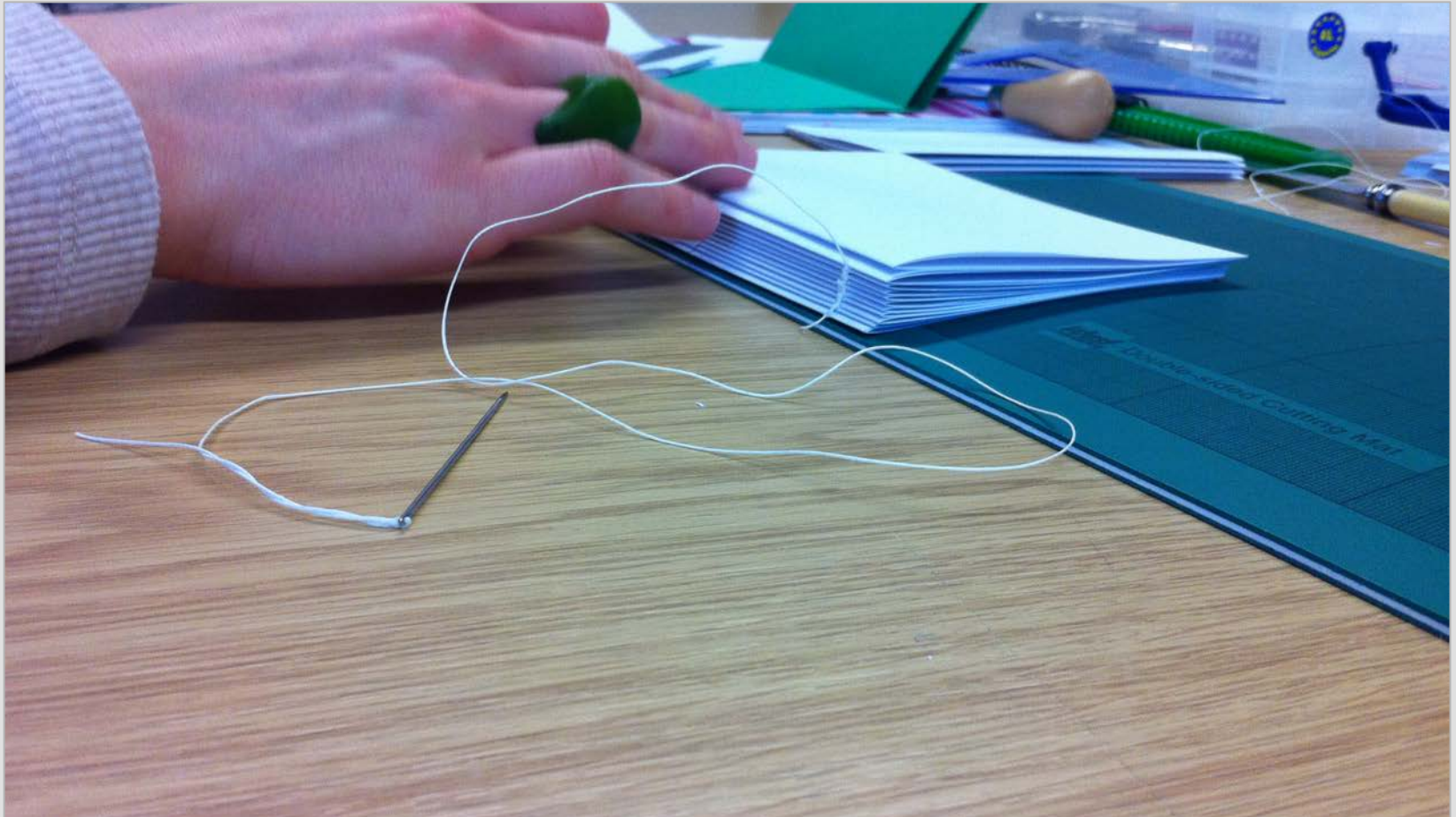
“...encouraged me to consider creating and producing things myself, by hand, instead of relying on things other people have made, and buying pre-made things” (Respondent 7, 2013).



“... enabled me to think outside the box a bit more in terms of design pieces that the audience are able to handle and manipulate” (Respondent 2, 2014)



“...made me more open minded so instead of easily making a spiral bound book or just stapling pages I can create interesting structures with a variety of sewing skills and cover styles” (Respondent 1, 2014).

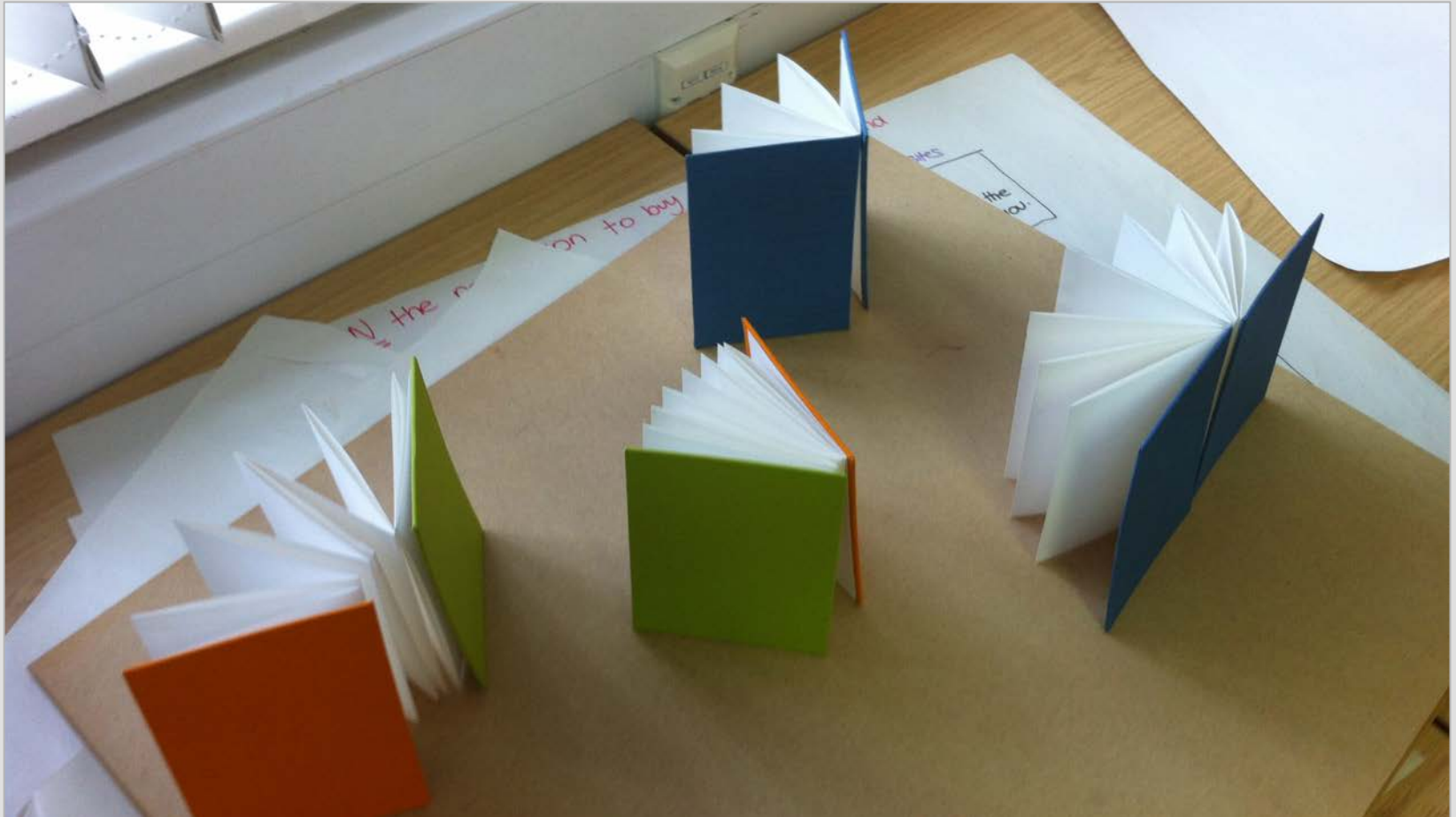


**Notion of craft as
'pure' and 'honest'...**

“It is reassuring to know that analogue skills are still valued within such a computer driven industry”(Respondent 3, 2013).

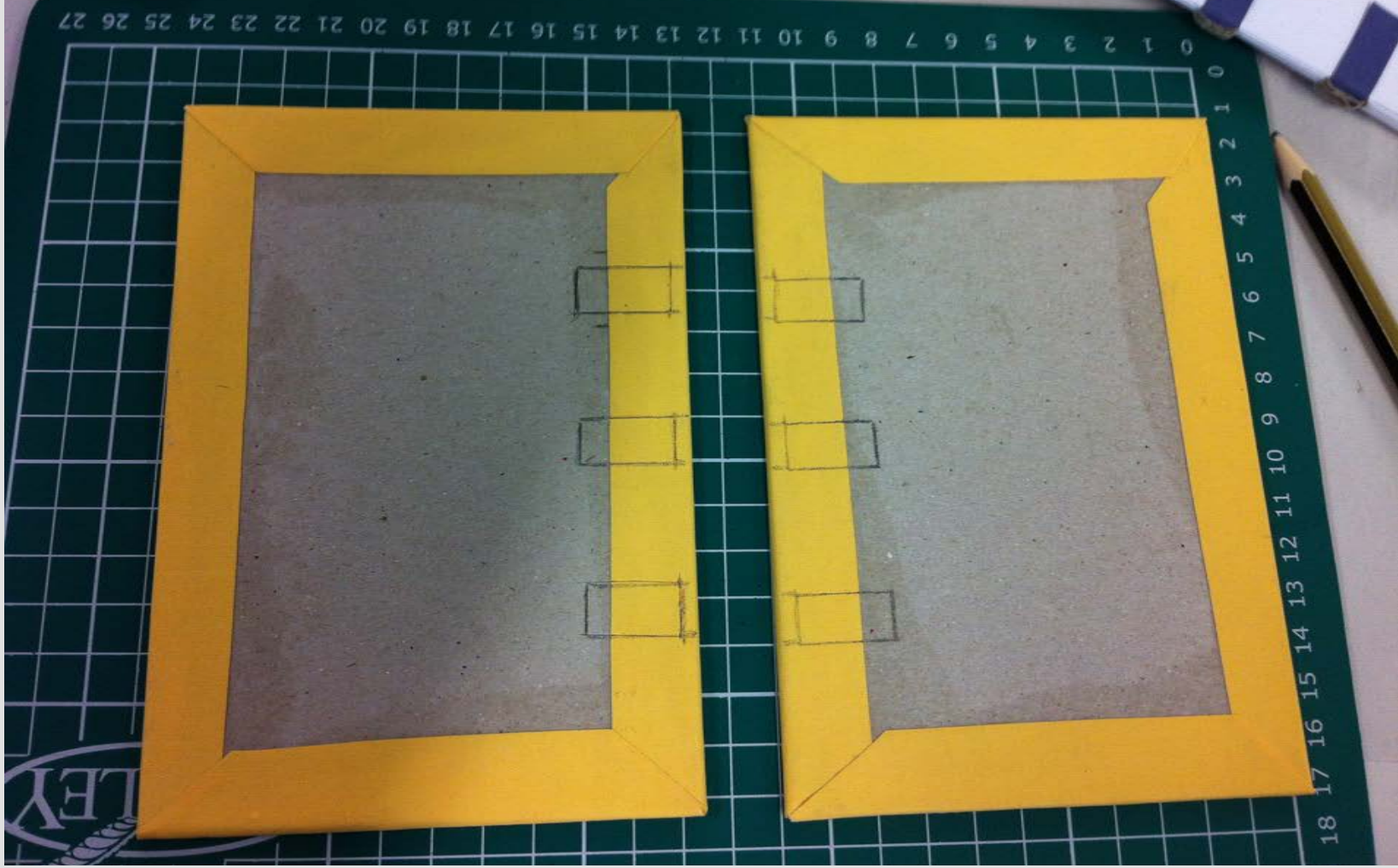


“It has emphasised how it is important to consider the hand crafted products” (Respondent 6, 2013).



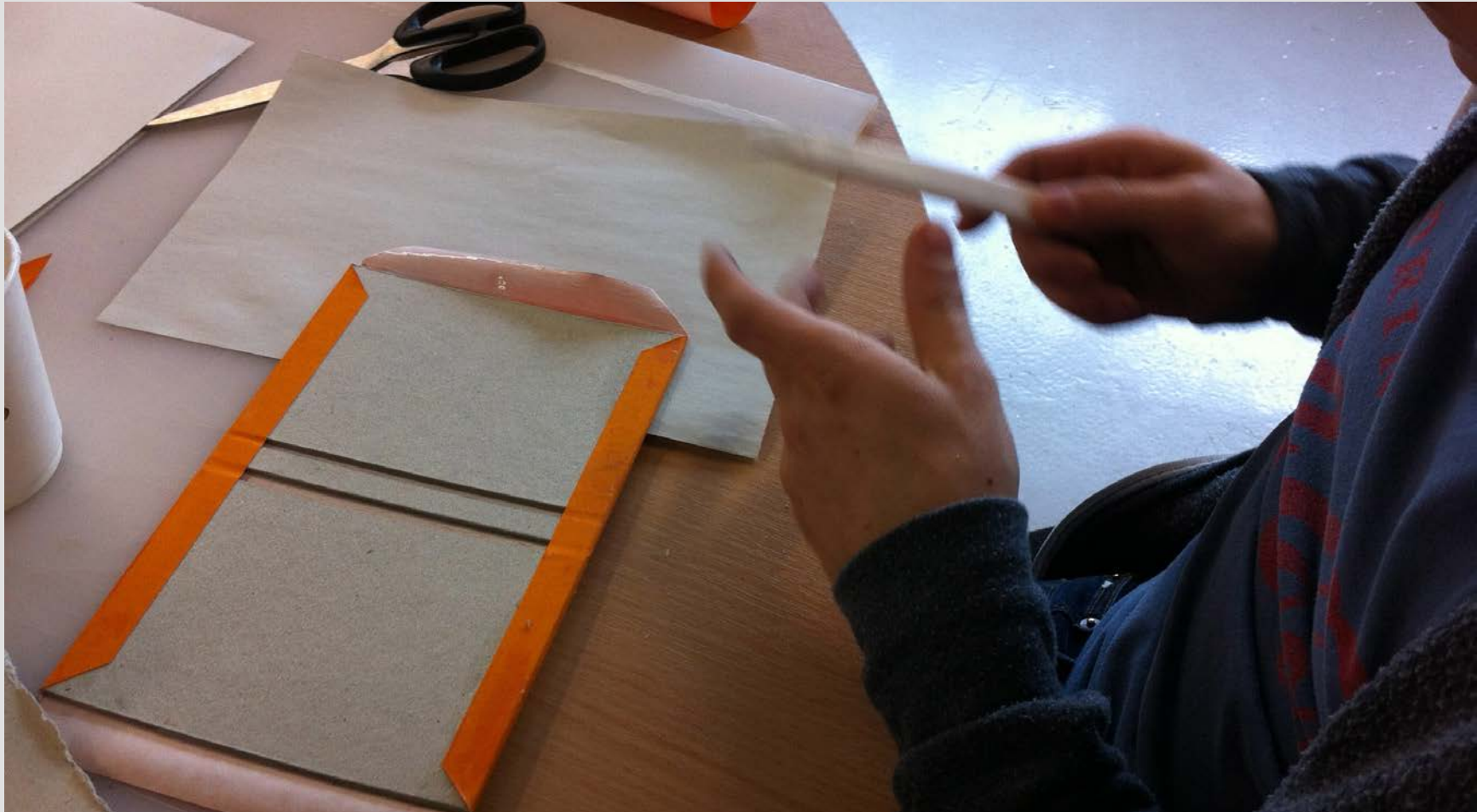
“I wish there was [sic] more hand made graphic design as I think there is too much digital design professionally. (Attending the workshops) has increased my confidence of hand making objects instead of just using the computer” (Respondent 3, 2014).

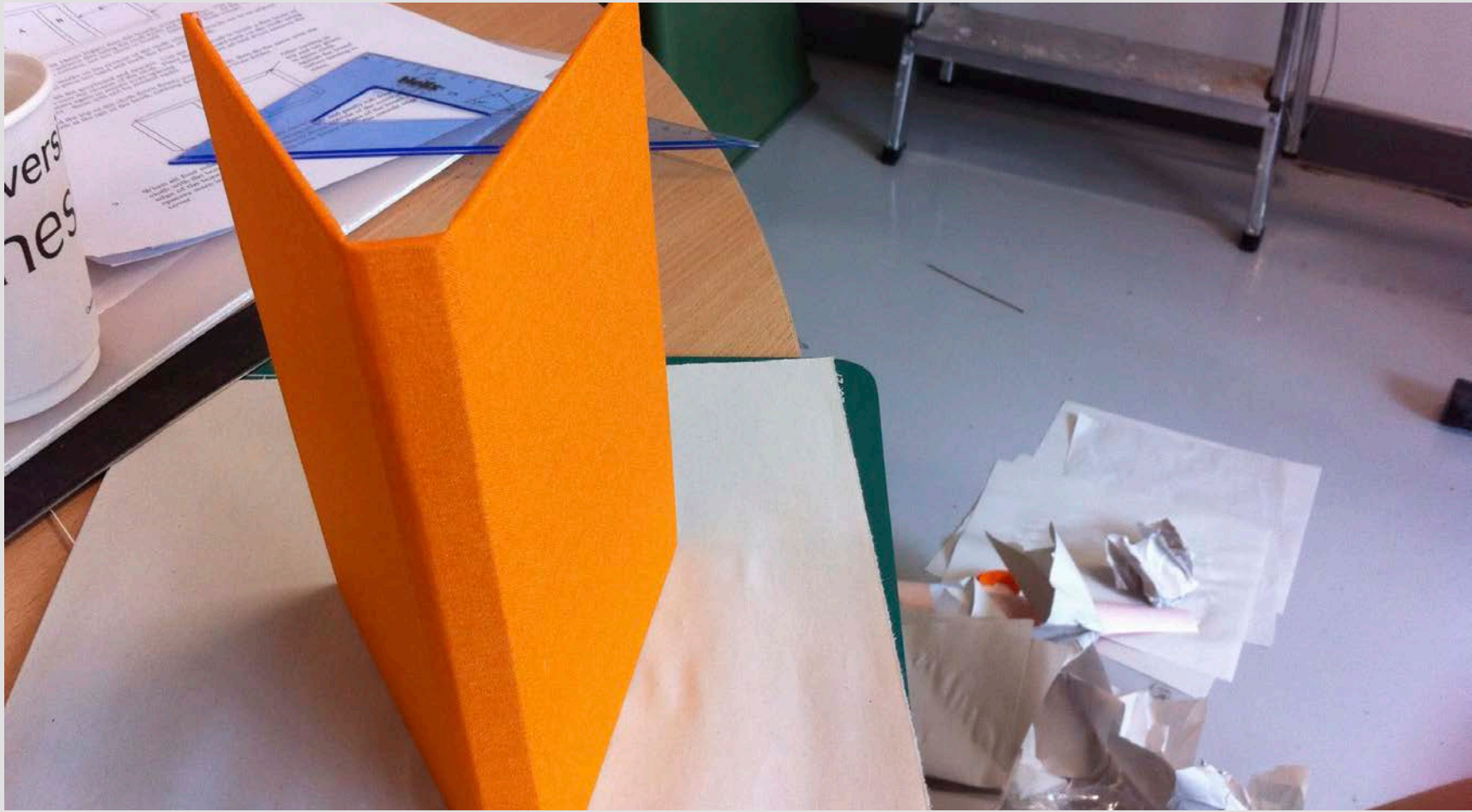












“In order to understand a person or a phenomenon, one needs to understand the context that surrounds the person or phenomenon...for the qualitative researcher, the person or the event can only be understood within the context or background.”

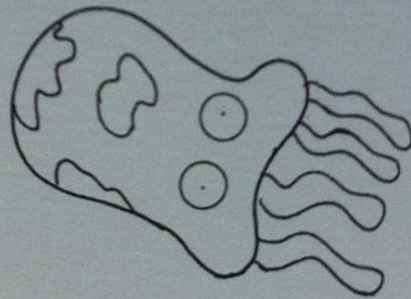
(Maykut & Morehouse, 1994, p.33)





Included Activities:

- Doodle Characters
- Vandalising Images
- Pattern Creation
- DIY Dot 2 Dot
- Endless Line Drawings



Survey Q9:

**After learning
bookbinding do you
see design any
differently in terms of
possible outcomes?**

“I now will consider hand crafting things myself, instead of relying on computer graphics and the work of others” (Respondent 7, 2013).



*i feel because i know more i can then use a range of techniques to express myself” [sic]
(Respondent 2, 2013).*



“it has widened my view of the possibilities available within the industry and how it overlaps with other disciplines such as fine art” (Respondent 2, 2014).



“Bookbinding has made me think about the encasement of items in a detailed way individual pieces of design” (Respondent 4, 2014).



Survey Q7:

**What effect has
learning bookbinding
had on your
confidence in your
design abilities?**

“It has made me happier because I know about something that not many others do. It's a very useful skill to have” Respondent 1(2014).



“It has enabled me to think outside the box a bit more in terms of design pieces that the audience are able to handle and manipulate” (Respondent 2, 2014)



“It has increased my confidence of hand making objects instead of just using the computer” (Respondent 3, 2014)



“Confidence levels in my practical design abilities have increased and will enable me to present my photographic work in more creative ways without compromising on professionalism” (Respondent 3, 2013).



Survey Q10:

How did it feel to be taught a new skill from someone still learning the skills alongside you?

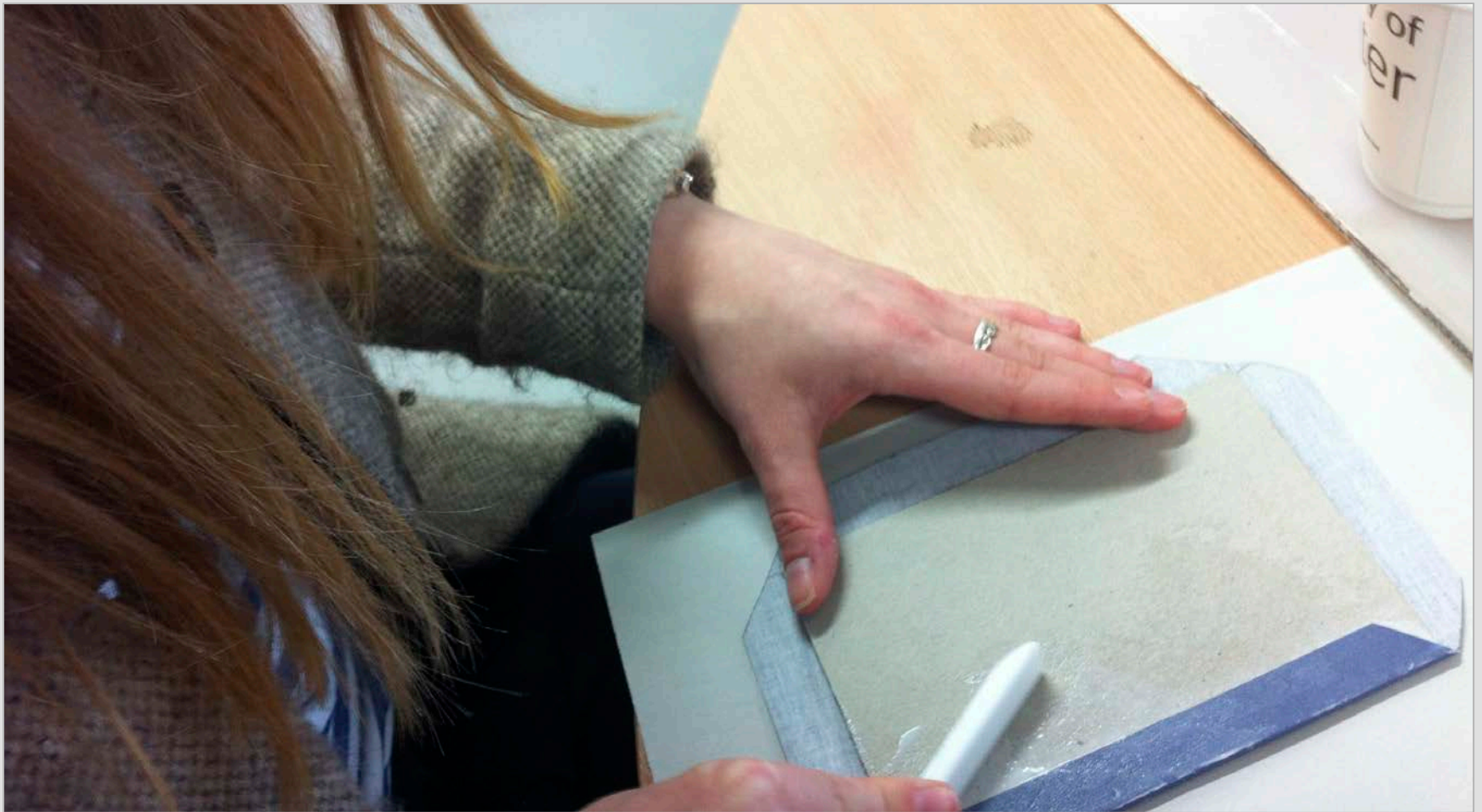
“I felt, as we were all learning, that there wasn't any pressure to do things in a certain way, or any pressure if things were done a little wrong. every one was learning new skills in a calm environment” (Respondent 1, 2014).



“It was good, it made me less nervous about getting things wrong myself”. (Respondent 2, 2014)



“I didn't feel pressured that I had to work at the same pace as everyone else, I also think it was made easier as we were able to see the structures being made by someone else alongside us making the structure for the first time” (Respondent 3, 2014).



“Liz was very committed and enthusiastic and I preferred the fact that Liz had better understanding and patience since she was learning too...we had great support and had fun book binding. It's a class I already miss being a part of” (Respondent 4, 2014).



“The difficult and the incomplete should be positive events in our understanding...”

“... they should stimulate us as simulation and facile manipulation of complete objects cannot.”

(Sennett, 2008, p44.)

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