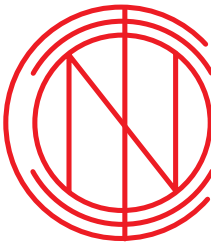




LOT NO.94, JANUARY 2011



THE UNIVERSAL VIEW MELTS EVERYTHING INTO A BLUR.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CURATOR
TEGAN ELLA HENDEL

A COLLECTION OF NOTHING

THE DISCOVERED WORK OF J.K.
BRAND NEWS PROJECT SPACE

In 2011, with the hope of making big news of small things, **BRAND NEWS** established its Project Space – a pint-sized space for emerging artists and creatives. We hope in time, that it will become a place for young creatives to find that much-needed foot in the door.

BRAND NEWS proudly presents its first Project Space show
– *A Collection of Nothing: The Discovered Work of J.K.*

Sometimes, paranoia is just having all the facts.

–
WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS



THE UNIVERSAL VIEW MELTS EVERYTHING INTO A BLUR
TEGAN ELLA HENDEL

*A weekend outing leads to the discovery
of someone rather strange.*

The truth is an elusive thing. We each have our own understanding of its meaning and its importance; it impacts each of our worlds differently. Philosophers’ approach truth cautiously, it is that strange pliable substance that relies exclusively on subjective thought – there is no level ground and there are no hard and fast rules to turn to.

Add to that the millions of influences flowing in from the world around you and you’ve got yourself a veritable haystack, with a needle of truth nestled somewhere tightly in the middle. Our perspective of the world is unquestionably influenced by that huge array of information – as Errol Morris wrote – ‘we live in a kind of haze of imagery, which comes from a million different directions’.¹

*In amongst it all, marked Lot No.94,
stood an inconspicuous box, unopened.*

Not long ago, those ideas became suddenly, bizarrely apparent to me. Strolling between tables, peeking from box to box, I was at a Sydney public auction – not the fine art kind, but the jumble sale kind – a veritable treasure trove of costume jewellery and 1970s furniture. In amongst it all, marked Lot No.94, stood an inconspicuous box, unopened. You now see a careful selection of what lay inside that box between the pages of this catalogue.

A hodgepodge of everything and nothing all at once, this collection of unusual printed matter covers a staggering range of topics. From the global to the local to the deeply personal, each piece from the box revealing a new topic, a fresh fixation or theory. They are painstakingly detailed and beautifully, carefully crafted – the revelations and fixations of an unknown creator, each piece more pointless than the next.

FOOTNOTE

1. Excerpt from a conversation between Errol Morris and Kevin Finn titled ***Truth & Context*** from *Open Manifesto Journal No.4, Propaganda*, Finn Creative, 2008

Where is the line between our personal worlds? And which of them is real?

In doing so, it provides an incredible encounter between two parallel worlds and the places they intersect. Where is the line between our personal worlds and the worlds of others? And which of them is real?

At heart, we have exhibited this found collection to share our strange (and strangely funny) discovery with the world. However not far below the surface, this unconventional wunderkammer also reveals the unique depths of human curiosity – taken to its limits, it becomes fixation and can be both dangerous and consuming.

As J.K. so often demonstrates, ‘the truth’ is flexible. Understanding that fluidity can influence our perspectives in unusual ways, but it can also expose the unseen, the overlooked and the unreal – and in doing so, reveal a vision of how things could be.

***but if one changes perspective, perhaps
shifts the truth sideways a little...***

Ever pondered the value of memorizing the both the Latin and common names of 160-odd bird species? Perhaps you've reflected on the unharnessed power and instructive possibilities of your dreams? Such abstract questions are often only considered within the far reaches of our imagination (or delusions), but if one changes perspective, perhaps shifts the truth sideways a little, they intersect with the real world in infinity. The paranoid side of the collection, at first so humorous, suddenly became strangely revealing – was the anonymous author of these peculiar items onto something?

The contents on the box – 568 items in total, expose nothing more than a single set of initials – J.K. Despite further investigation, the box's origins remained shrouded in mystery, both auctioneer and vendor having no further revelations to share. J.K. remains the silent maestro of his own self-contained universe.

Found items in the collection have been meticulously studied, with hand-rendered markings in an indecipherable code. Each piece had us asking more and more questions; as we sifted through the contents of our box, we found no answers. We noticed a similar logo-mark on almost all of the pieces, the crest for a baffling group called The New Order of the All-Seeing Eye – NOASE. Could this be the private collection of a member of some long-forgotten secret society? Or are they the incoherent ramblings of a reclusive crackpot? There appears to be no other members besides our reluctant protagonist J.K.

With the questions accumulating thick and fast, we return to the slippery substance at hand – the truth. A Collection of Nothing reveals one individual's grass-roots approach to navigating an ever shifting and often mystifying world.

Reprinted photographic images.
110 x 85mm, pin marks evident.



These prints depict 1920s spirit images by the Falconer Bros. Scottish mediums who were hugely successful psychics until their exposure in 1931. All these images were created by screen-printing the ghost onto the photographic image, the 'misty cloud' that surrounds the face is cotton wool.

PLATES

BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Black and white monotone photographic prints.
Varied sizes, hand-dated and rubber-stamped on reverse.



All these photographic images appear to be original monotone photographic prints and are in varied states of decay. All are marked with the NOASE stamp and signed and dated by hand.

LOCH NESS

Black and white photographic reprint.
120 x 95 mm, unmarked.



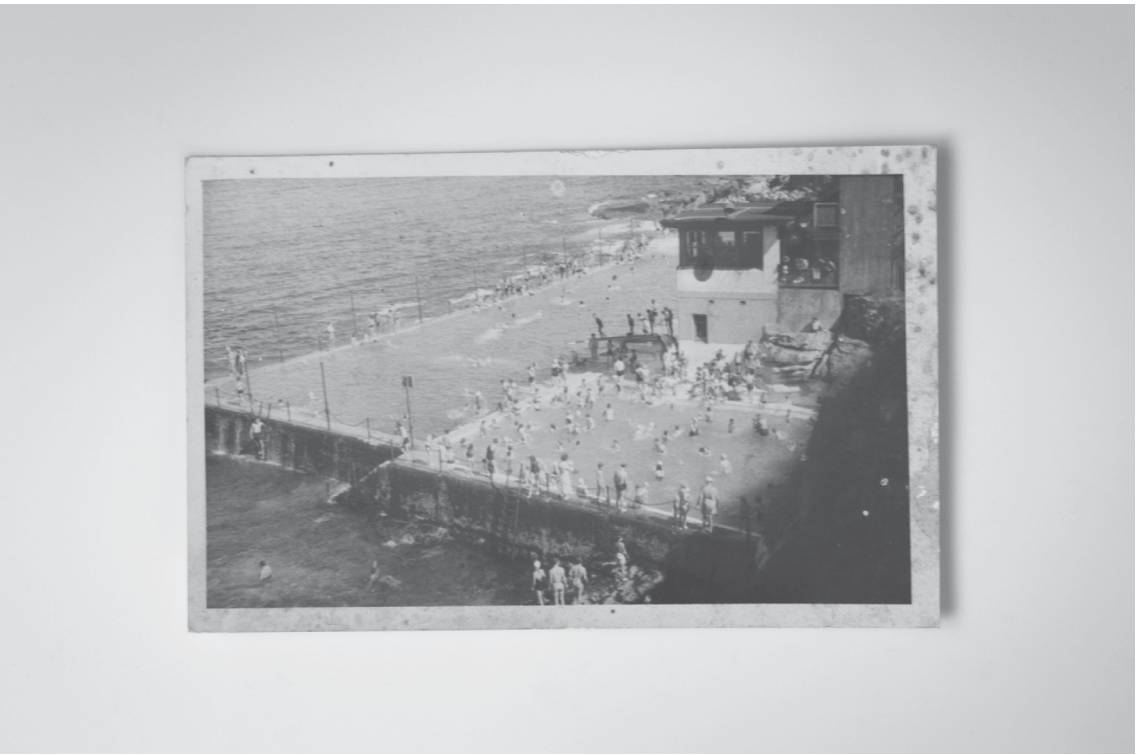
AUSTRALIAN BIRDS

11 avian cigarette play cards.
mm, rubber-stamped on underside.



BEACH POOL

Black and white monotone photographic print.
140 x 90mm, hand-dated and rubber-stamped on reverse.



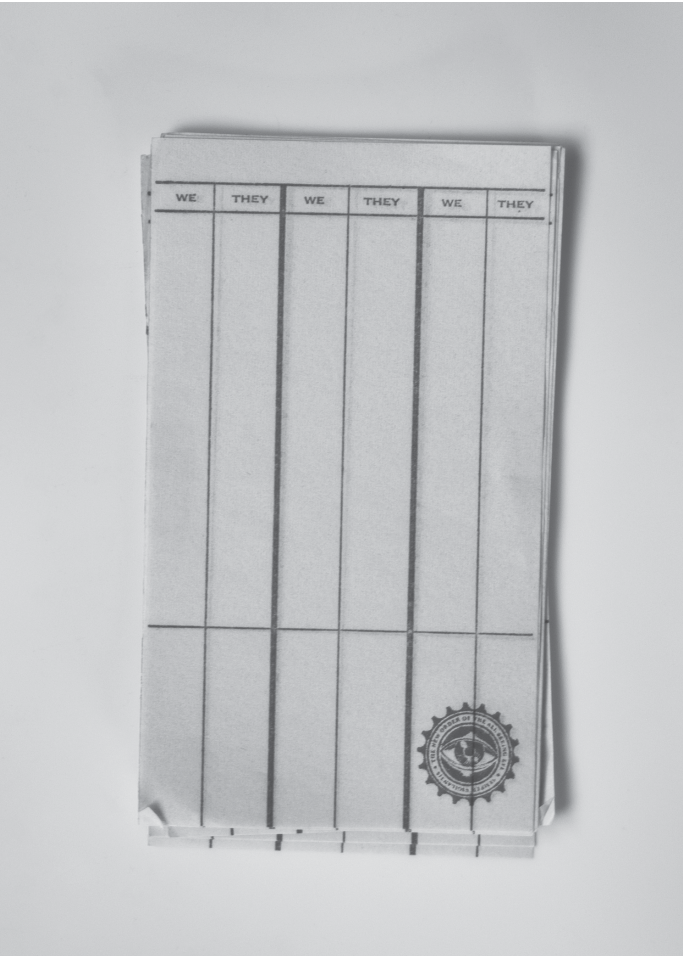
PARADE & MARCHING BAND

Black and white monotone photographic prints.
Both 125 x 100mm, hand-dated and rubber-stamped on reverse.



WE AND THEY

Unused Bridge Sheets.
78 x 145mm, all pages rubber-stamped.



CARDINAL PLAYING CARD

Coloured queen of hearts playing card.
90 x 55mm, typed notation on underside.



SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE

Black and white monotone photographic print.
140 x 90mm, hand-dated and rubber-stamped on reverse.



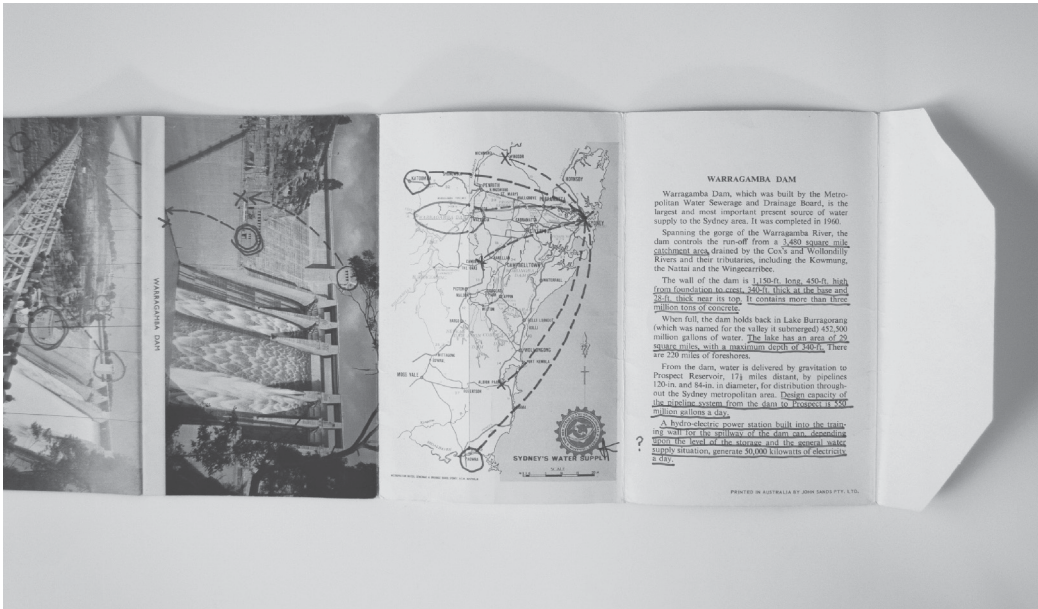
GIRL IN WHITE

Black and white monotone photographic print.
90 x 70mm, hand-dated and rubber-stamped on reverse.



WARRAGAMBA DAM

Fold-up postcard set with hand-drawn notations.
155 x 100mm folded, hand-dated and rubber-stamped on interior.



Both fold-out postcard sets are meticulously marked with a series of dotted lines and arrows and circling of various buildings and landmarks. There appears to be a colour system to the notations although no key or written details have been added to explain them.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Fold-up postcard set with hand-drawn notations.
155 x 100mm folded, rubber-stamped on interior.



RUSSIAN CHILDREN

Black and white monotone photographic print.
90 x 70mm, coloured detail in image, hand-dated and rubber-stamped on reverse.



COSTAL PHOTO SET

Black and white monotone photographic prints.
All 110 x 65mm, hand-dated and rubber-stamped on reverse.

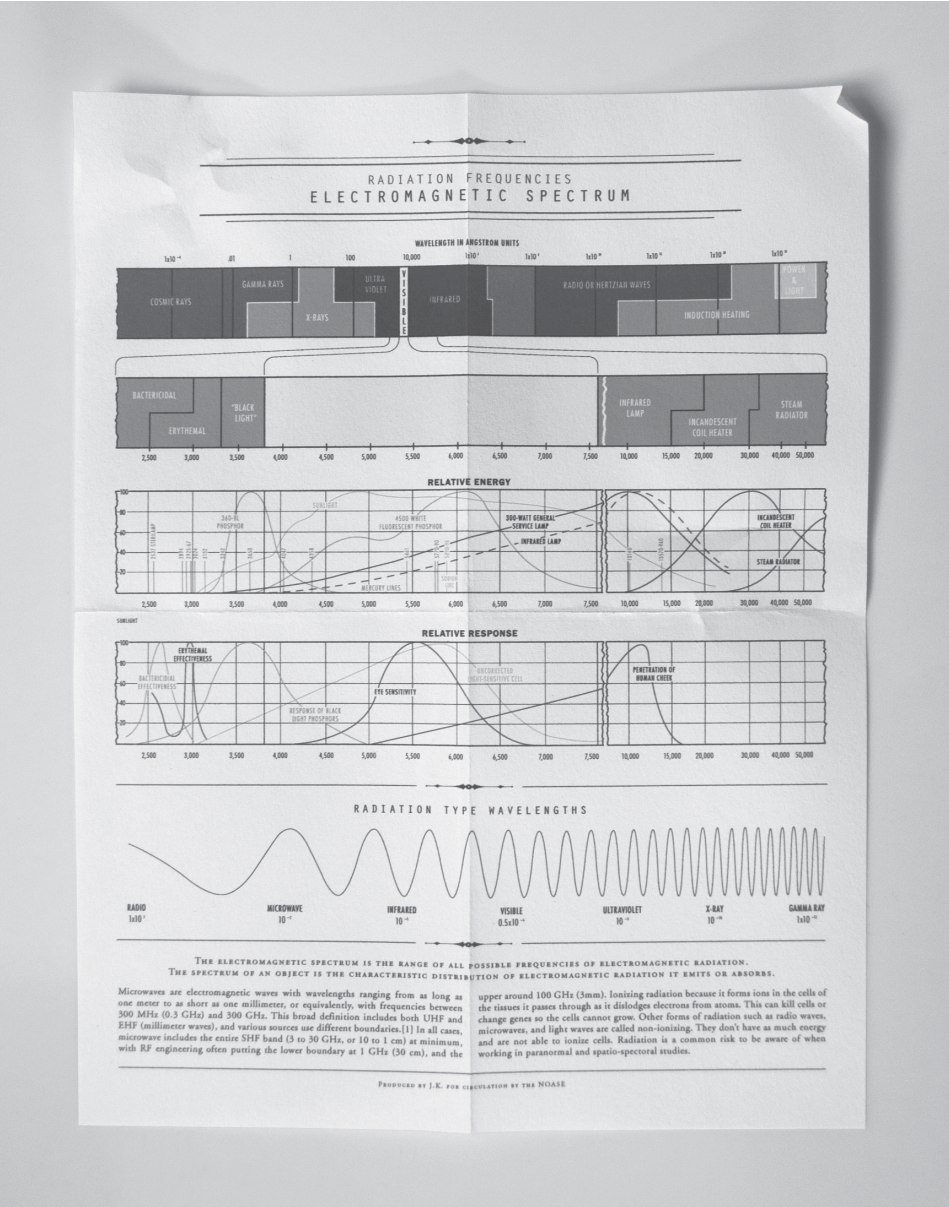


VARIED POSTCARDS

Colour postcard prints.
Varied sizes, hand-dated and rubber-stamped on reverse.



Printed NOASE Document, Heavy Newsprint.
190 x 250mm.



Reprinted photographic image.
118 x 78mm, hand-drawn circle marks figure.

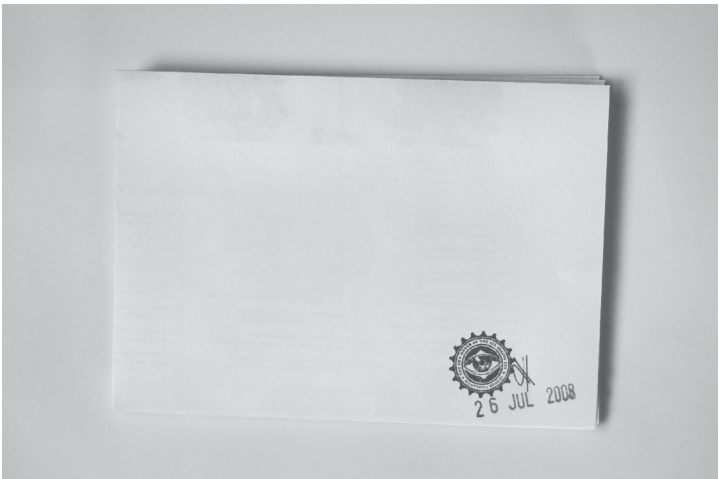
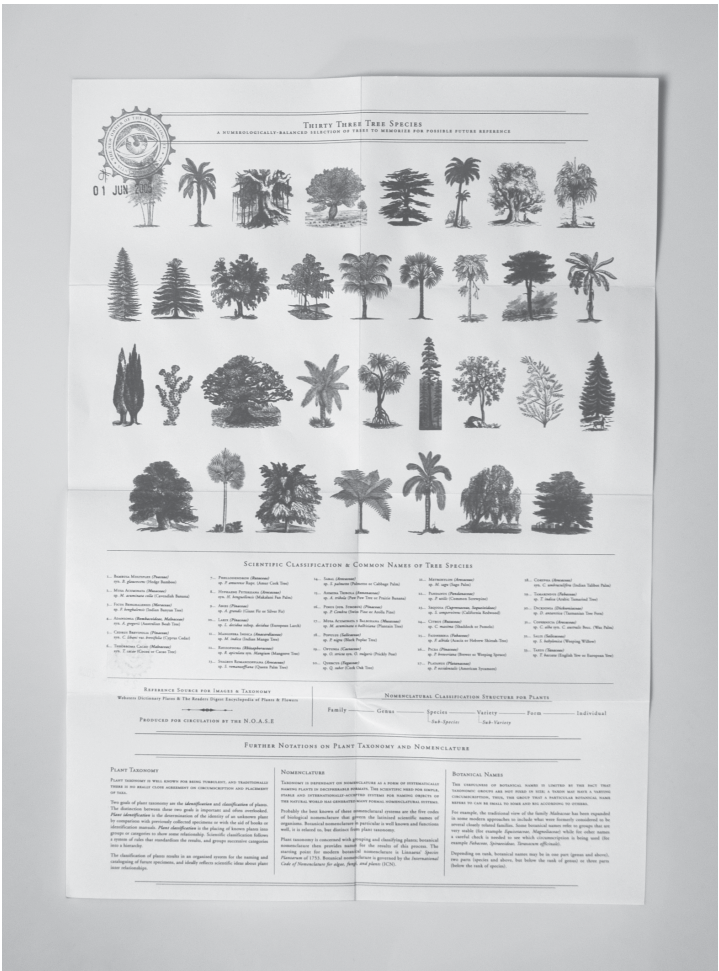


Over 50 reprints of historic paranormal evidence was found in the auction box, a small selection of the ghost images have been shown here.

Black and white photographic reprint.
75 x 90mm, hand-drawn circles mark figures.



Black and white printed chart, newsprint.
420 x 297mm, hand-dated and rubber-stamped on both sides.



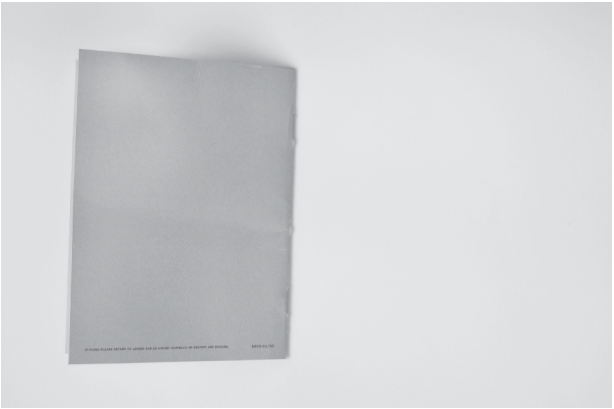
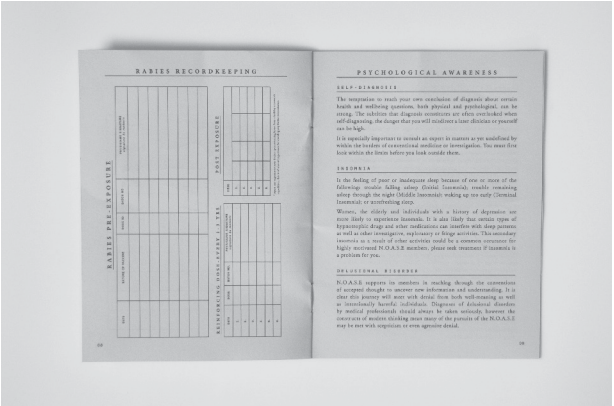
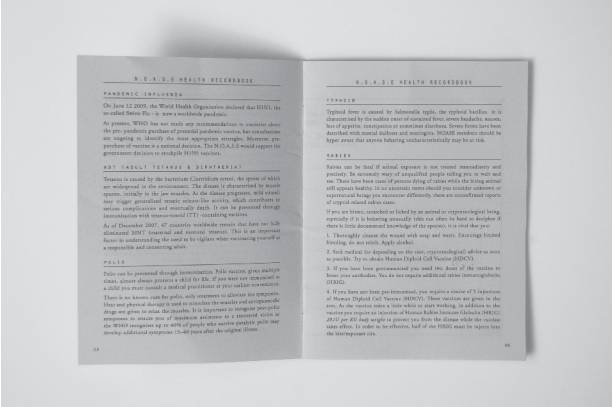
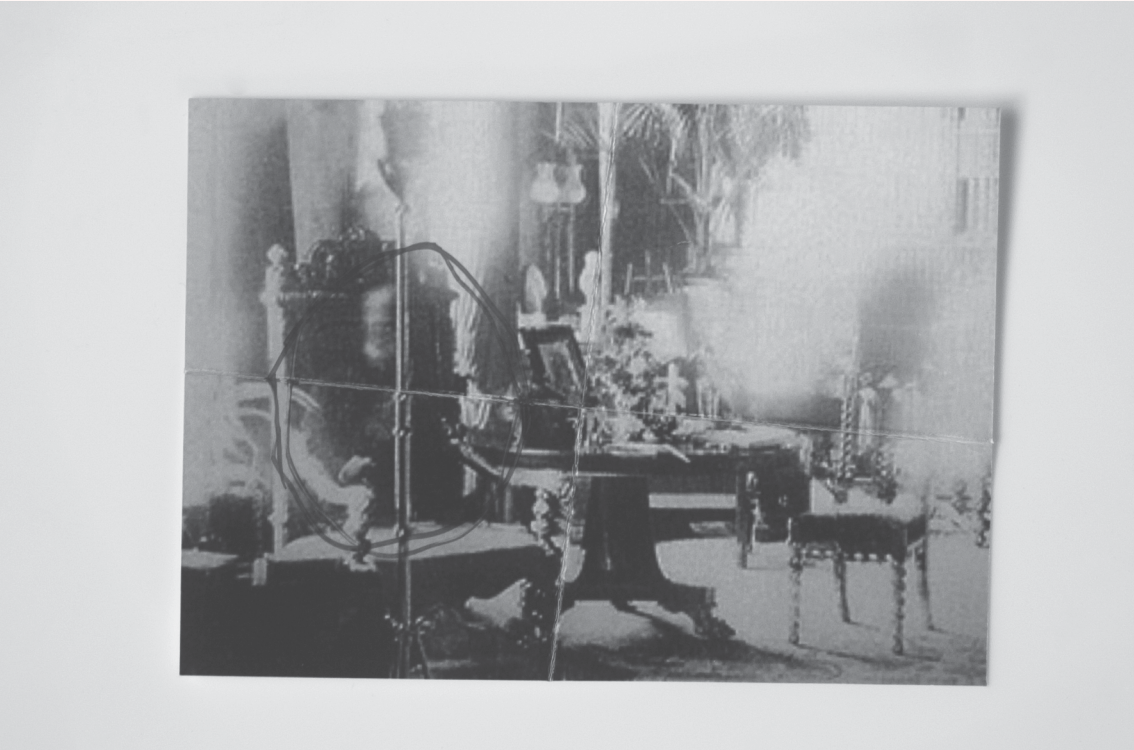
Black and white printed chart, lightweight paper.
540 x 730mm, hand-dated and rubber-stamped, Taxonomy is printed on reverse.



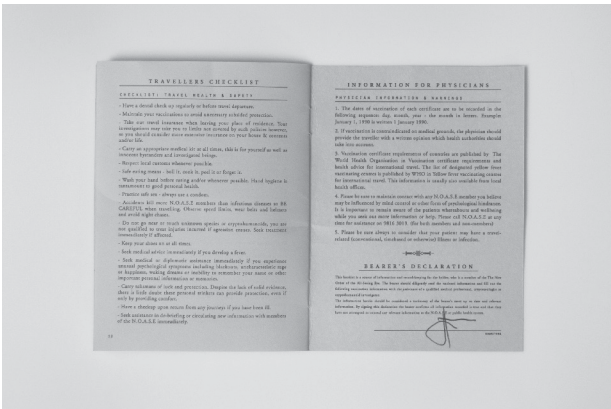
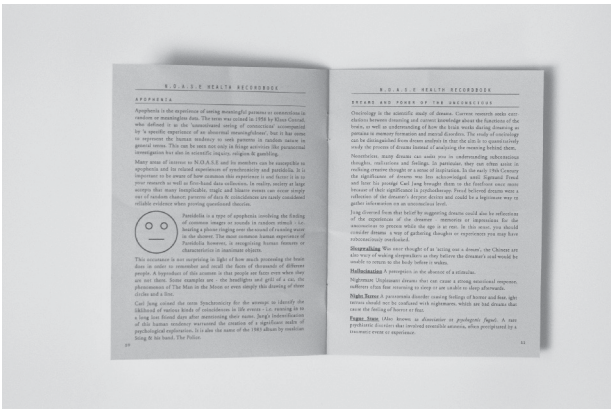
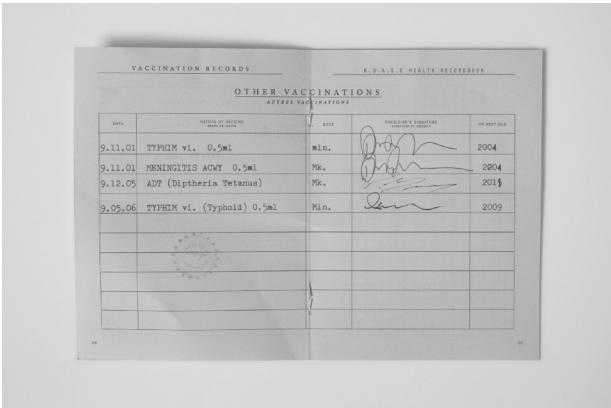
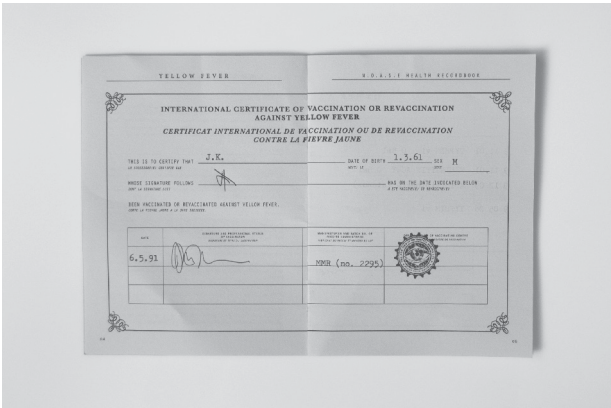
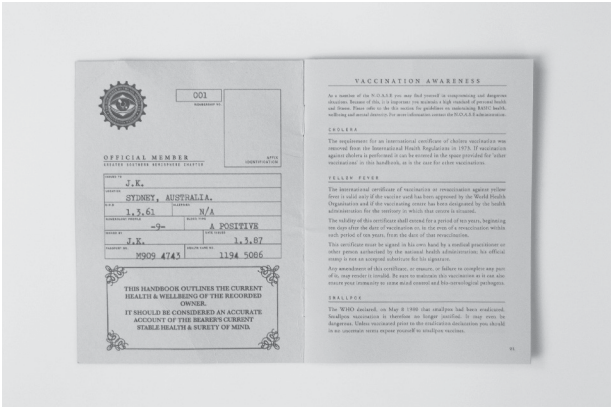
Black and white photographic reprint.
120 x 103mm, hand-drawn circle marks figure.



Black and white photographic reprint.
112 x 80mm, hand-drawn circle marks figure.



Staple bound paper booklet.
130 x 100mm folded, interior forms are all filled.



Black and white photographic reprint.
110 x 95mm, hand-drawn circles indicate item to left of figures.



The battle of Antietam was the bloodiest in American history, it is said Lincoln wagered with God that if they won he would abolish slavery. The day after this image was taken Lincoln issued the emancipation proclamation.

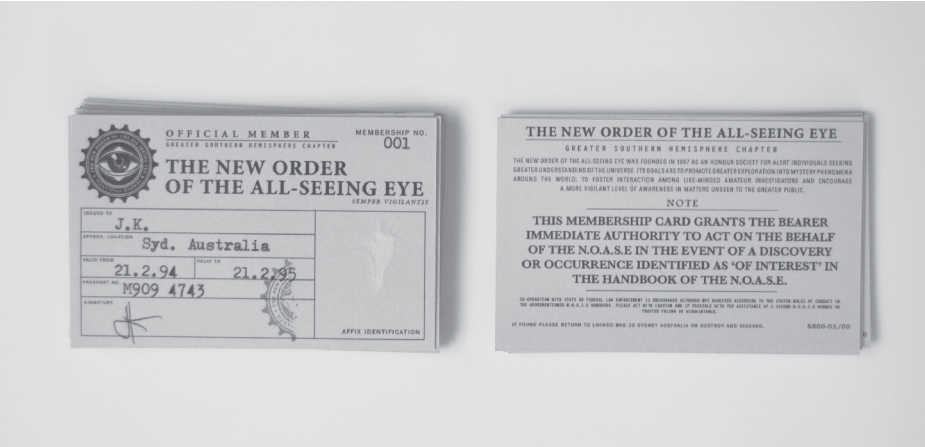
GOLDEN GUITAR, TAMWORTH

Original Polaroid Instant Photograph.
108 x 84mm.



NOASE MEMBERSHIP CARD

Printed Membership Card, heavyweight card.
All 85 x 55mm, hand-dated, typed and rubber-stamped.



The New Order of the All-Seeing Eye is evident on almost all the items in the collection with very few not bearing at the very least a stamp & signature.

The following plates are a selection of the most specific ephemeral pieces including a membership card, health and safety record book and dream recording form!

TATTOOED WOMAN

Colour historical photographic reproduction.
150 x 110mm, hand-drawn circle indicates eagle tattoo.



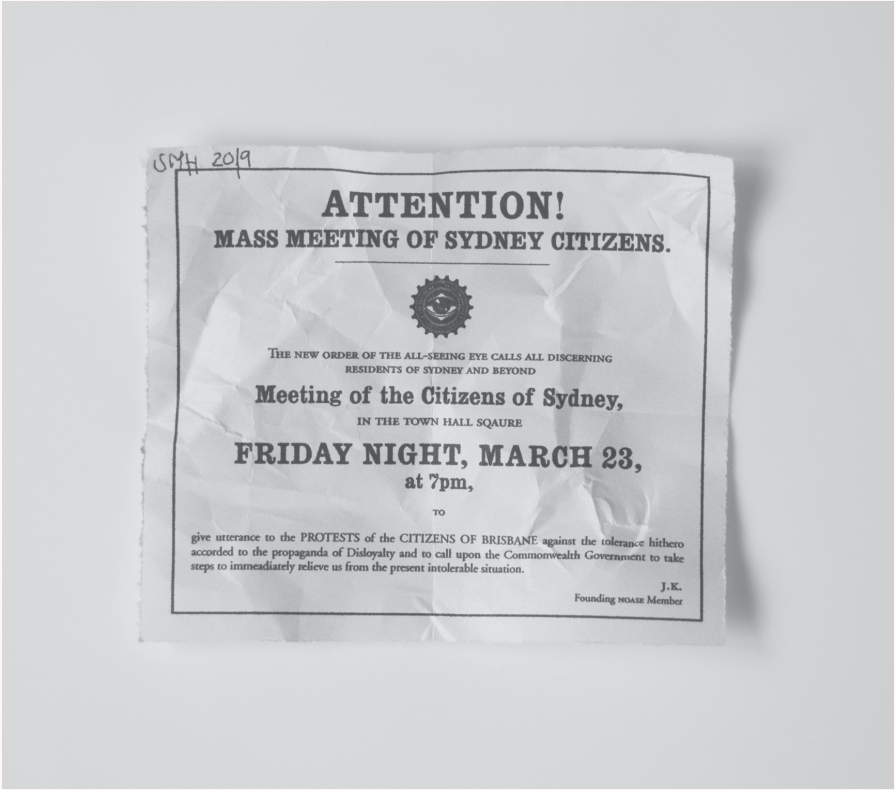
Colour Photographic Prints.
All 108 x 85mm, hand dated on reverse.



Over 100 images of varied doorways and access photos were discovered in the box, only a selection of the images have been exhibited. Each image is hand-dated but no other notations were made.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

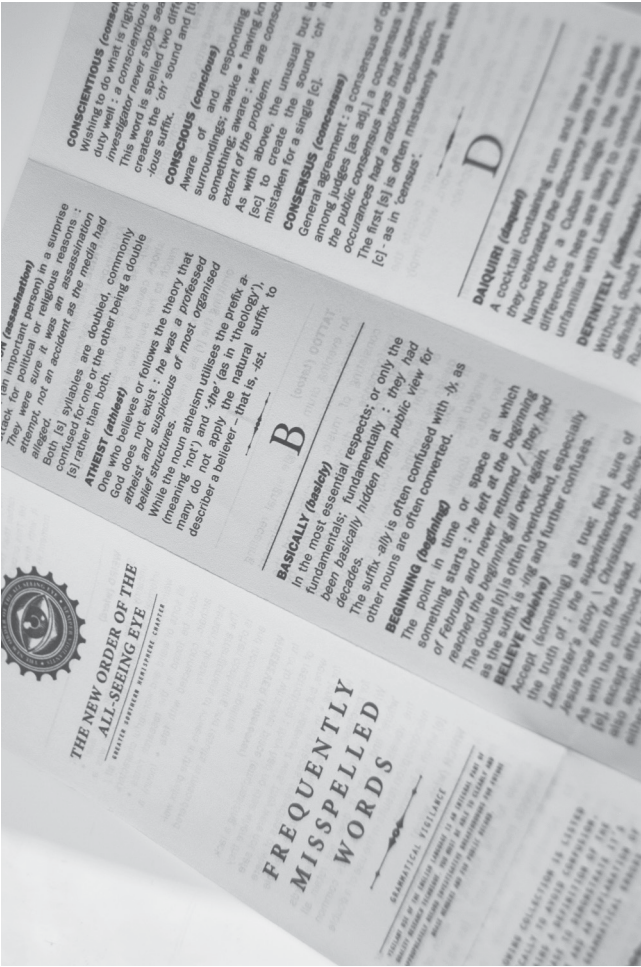
Newspaper advert or clipping.
120 x 100mm, hand-drawn notation in top left.



Works from the exhibition A Collection of
Nothing, presented by Brand News Project
Space & Tegan Hendel. With thanks to J.K.
for popping out of the woodwork when you
did and everyone at Brand News.

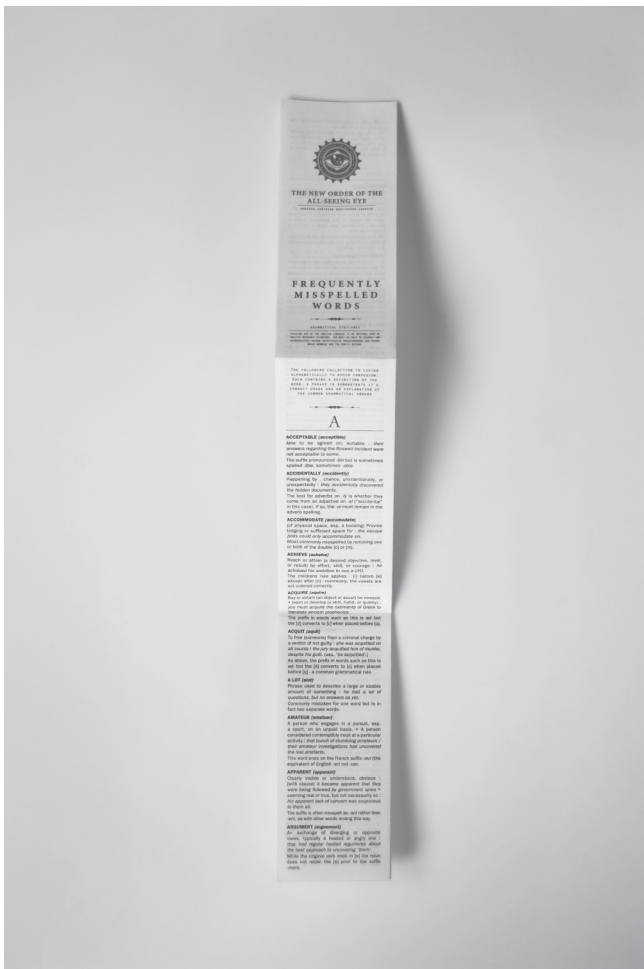
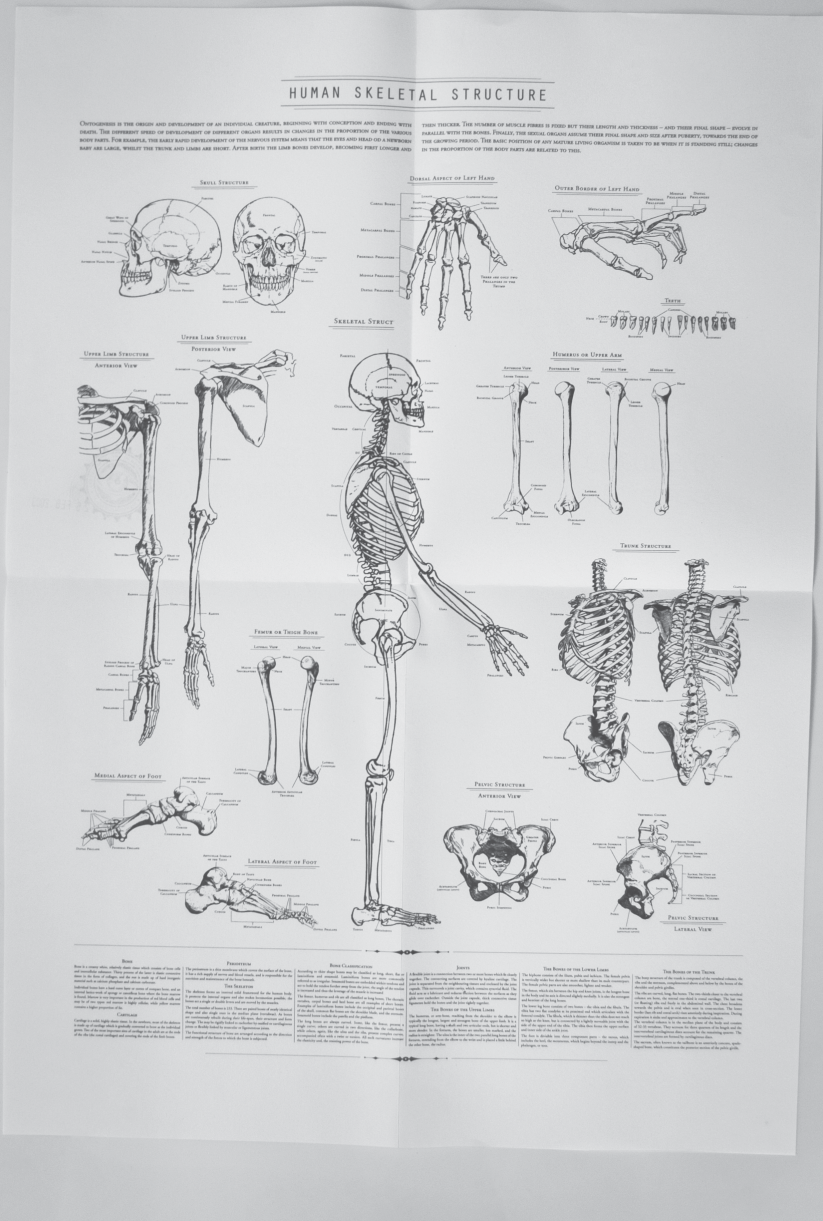


Black and white fold-down pamphlet.
130 x 55mm folded.



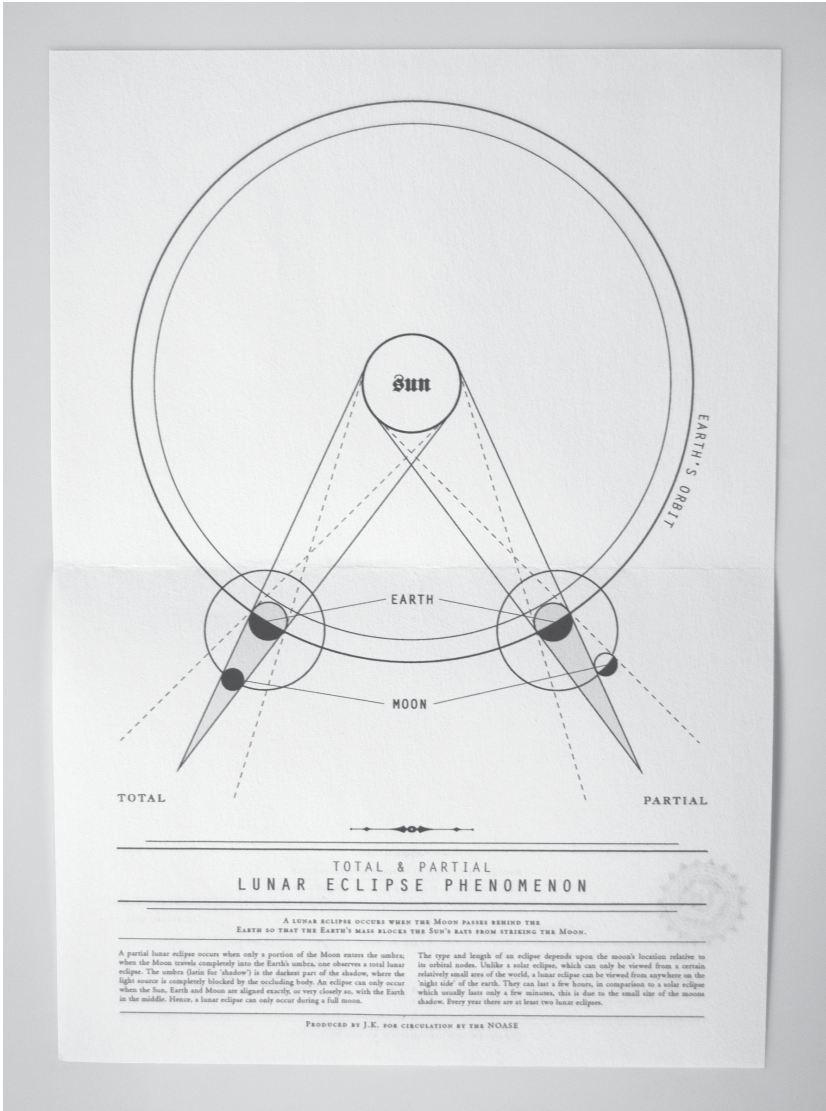
HUMAN SKELETAL STRUCTURE

Black and white printed chart.
300 x 210mm folded, rubber-stamped and dated on reverse.



LUNAR ECLIPSE PHENOMENON

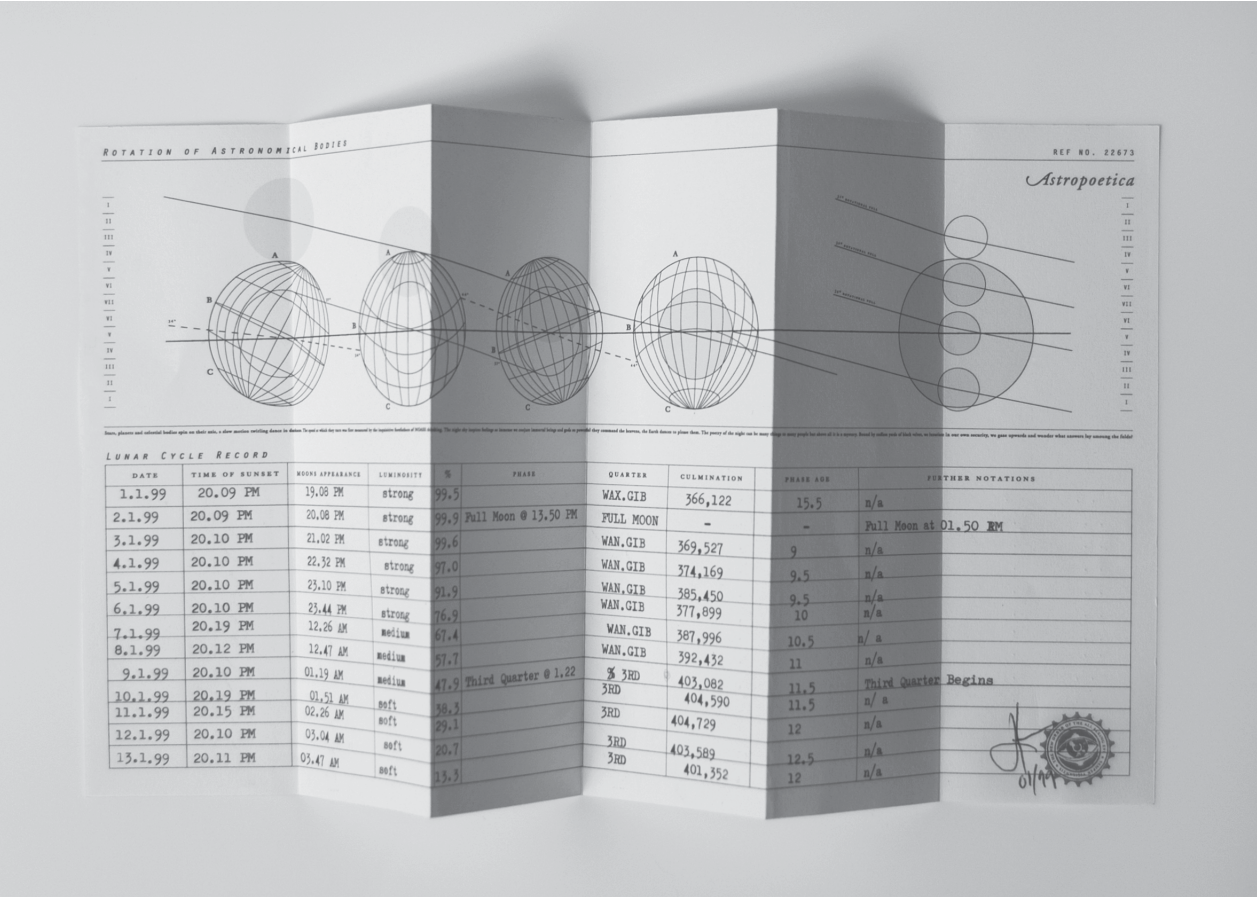
Colour printed diagram, heavy newsprint.
540 x 730mm, rubber-stamped on reverse.



Black and white printed newspaper.
285 x 195mm folded, unmarked.

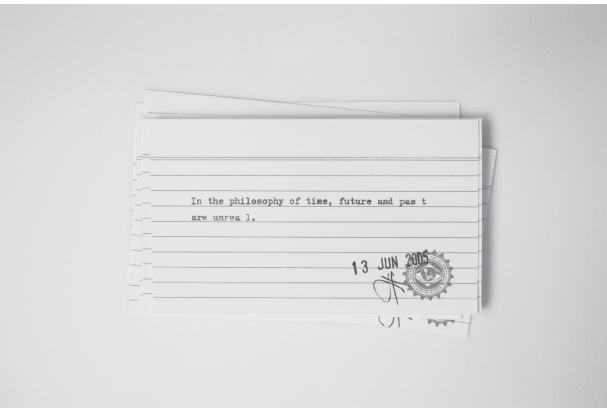
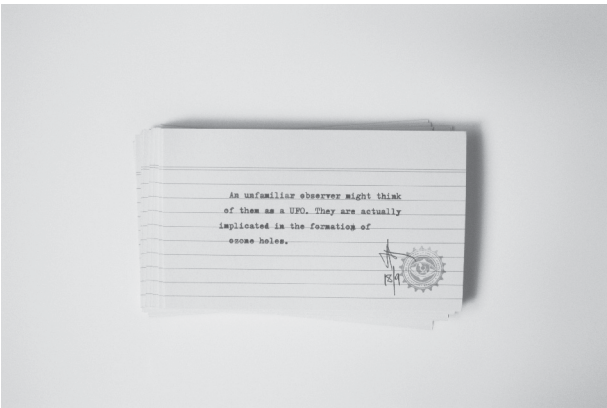


printed diagram and form, medium weight paper.
350 x 185, typed and rubber-stamped on front.



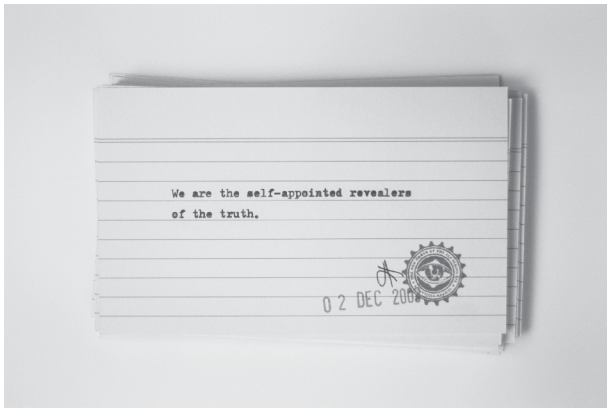
LUNAR CYCLE OBSERVATION

Colour printed form, lightweight newsprint.
265 x 130mm, hand-drawn markings and typing on front.

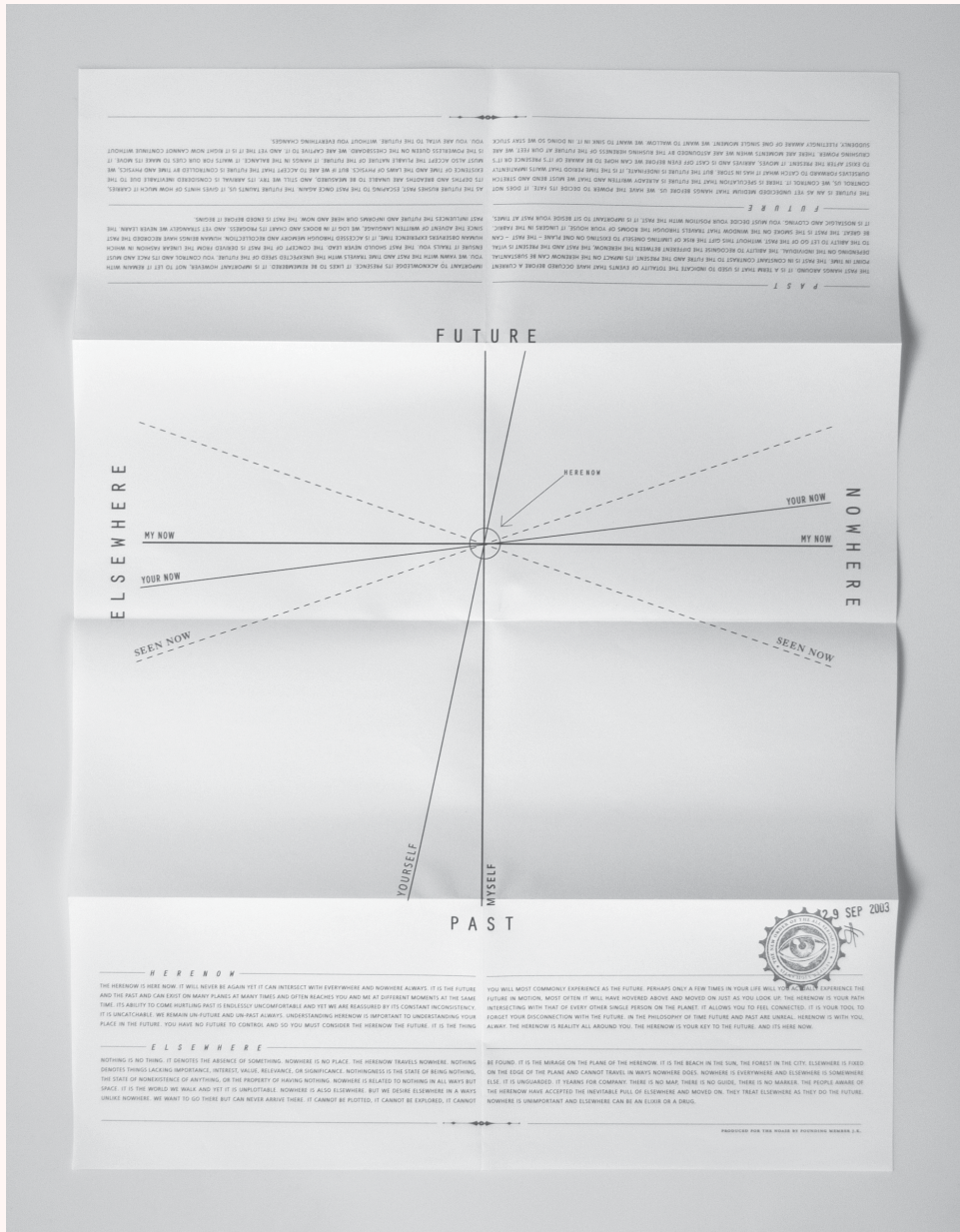


A large number of these notecards were found, a selection of about 50 have been included in the exhibition. Most act as personal notes but there are a few that offer more philosophical references.

Standard office index cards.
125 x 75mm, all are typed, rubber-stamped and hand-dated.

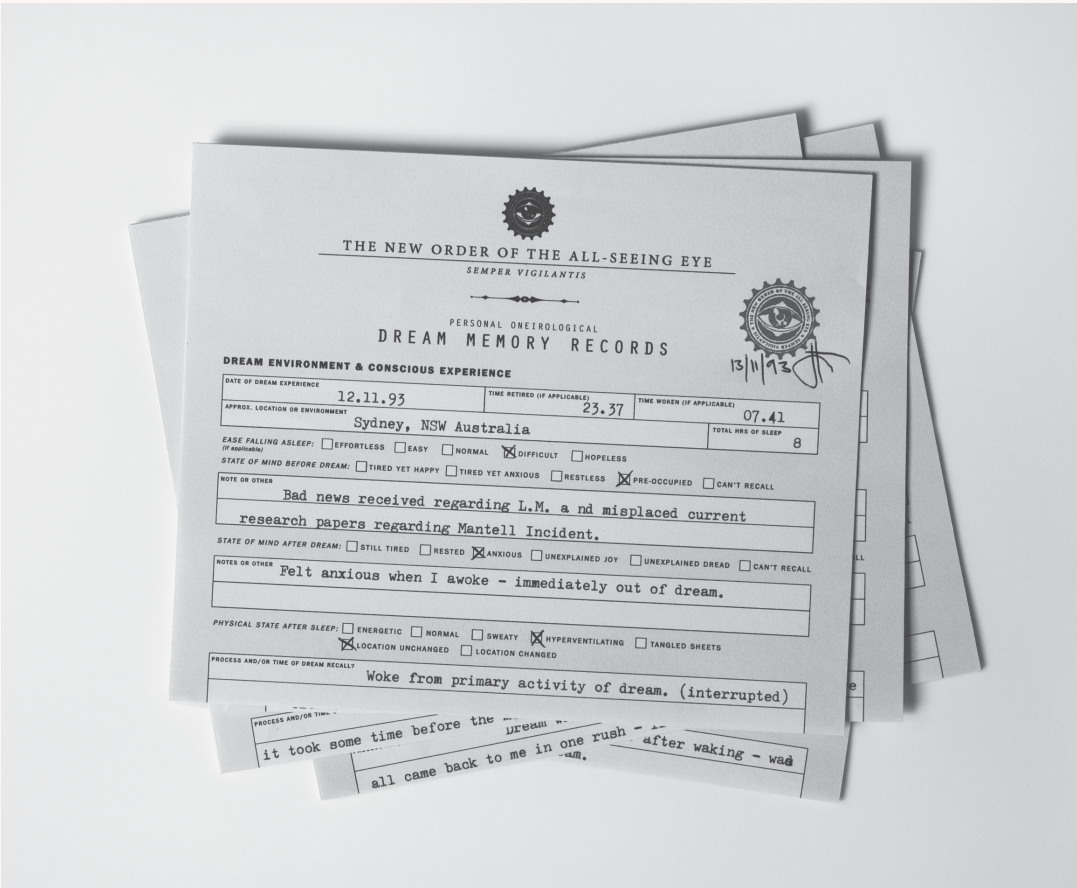


Black and white printed diagram, lightweight paper.
520 x 380mm, rubber-stamped on front.



DREAM RECORD SHEETS, FOLDED

Colour printed form, lightweight paper.
170 x 140mm folded, typed, rubber-stamped and dated on front.



NOASE MEMBERSHIP CARD

Printed Membership Card, heavyweight card.
All 85 x 55mm, hand-dated, typed and rubber-stamped.

