

The Process of (Re)Coding

The idea of recoding means many things to me, encompassing the entirety of this project. In the early stages of this process, I spent a lot of time in the Stuart Hall archives, looking through his works for inspiration for the workshops I would lead later down the line. This in itself was a process of recoding for me, taking some of his complex ideas around identity and communication and finding a way to have these themes translate into craft exercises.

The idea of recoding was an important one in the workshops, in particular when thinking about our own health journeys and how we could communicate those to others. Through a series of mediums - collage, Lino printing and embroidery - we thought about how we could recode information about our well-being into a piece of art that could then be interpreted by others.

Hall speaks a lot about photography, in particular Black self-portraiture, as being a radical form of self-expression - a recoding in itself of societal expectations of Blackness. Vic captured this wonderfully in her photography. My hope with the work produced by the participants as well as myself was to take this idea one step further; another recoding of a sort, representing ourselves with process-oriented craft mediums that allowed us to think carefully about how we saw our own health journeys and how we could communicate those journeys to others.

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