**1,**

## Svalbard Global Seed Vault's One Million Seed Milestone

Hidden 120 meters deep within the Arctic permafrost, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault stands as humanity's ultimate safeguard against biodiversity loss, securing the genetic foundation of our global food supply. Its unyielding structure is a fortress for the life it preserves, designed to withstand the test of time amid global uncertainty.

On 25 February 2020, the vault reached a historic milestone, securing its one millionth seed sample. This achievement marks a critical step in defending agricultural diversity from climate change, natural disasters, and nuclear war – so that future generations inherit a world where food security endures even the most extreme threats.

In October 2024, a significant deposit of 30,000 seed samples from 21 countries arrived at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. This addition brought the total number of seed duplicates in the vault to 1,301,397, contributed by over 100 nations. This milestone is a testament to global foresight, scientific collaboration, and the urgency of protecting the world's food systems in an age of uncertainty. Each seed deposited represents a pledge to defend the genetic legacy that sustains life.

**Mercurialis annua**
*(Annual mercury)*
Depositors: 1
Accessions: 11
Countries: 4
**40x at 10cm**

**Beta vulgaris**
*(Beetroot)*
Depositors: 18
Accessions: 1,914
Countries: 60
**50x at 10cm**

**Nigella damascena**
*(Love-in-a-mist)*
Depositors: 3
Accessions: 20
Countries: 8
**50x at 10cm**

Micah Tabak

**1,OO,OOO.**

PLANT DIVERSITY

2

**Beta Vulgaris**
*Beetroot*
Depositors: 18
Accessions: 1,914
Countries: 60
50x at 1000mm



Growth forms describe the general shape and structure of plants. These categories are based on traits like height, stem type, and overall form. They help us understand how plants occupy space, interact with their environment, and support ecosystems through roles like providing shelter, stabilising soil, or shaping habitat layers.

**28%** — **Shrub** A perennial woody plant larger than a subshrub, but smaller than a tree.

**32%** — **Herb** A small herbaceous plant that never develops a woody stem.

**16%** — **Tree** A perennial woody plant larger than a shrub with a single, self-supporting trunk.

**Subshrub** A small shrub that is mostly woody at its base.

THE SVALBARD GLOBAL SEED VAULT



SECURING THE FUTURE OF ALL WE KNOW AND RELY ON

**Plantago Major**
Common plantain
Depositors: 8E
Accessions: 1+
Countries: 67
50x at 1000mm

**Allium Cepa**
*Bulb onion*
Depositors: 21
Accessions: 1,115
Countries: 72
50x at 1000mm

**Setaria Italica**
German millet
Depositors: 10
Accessions: 2,001
Countries: 59
50x at 1000mm
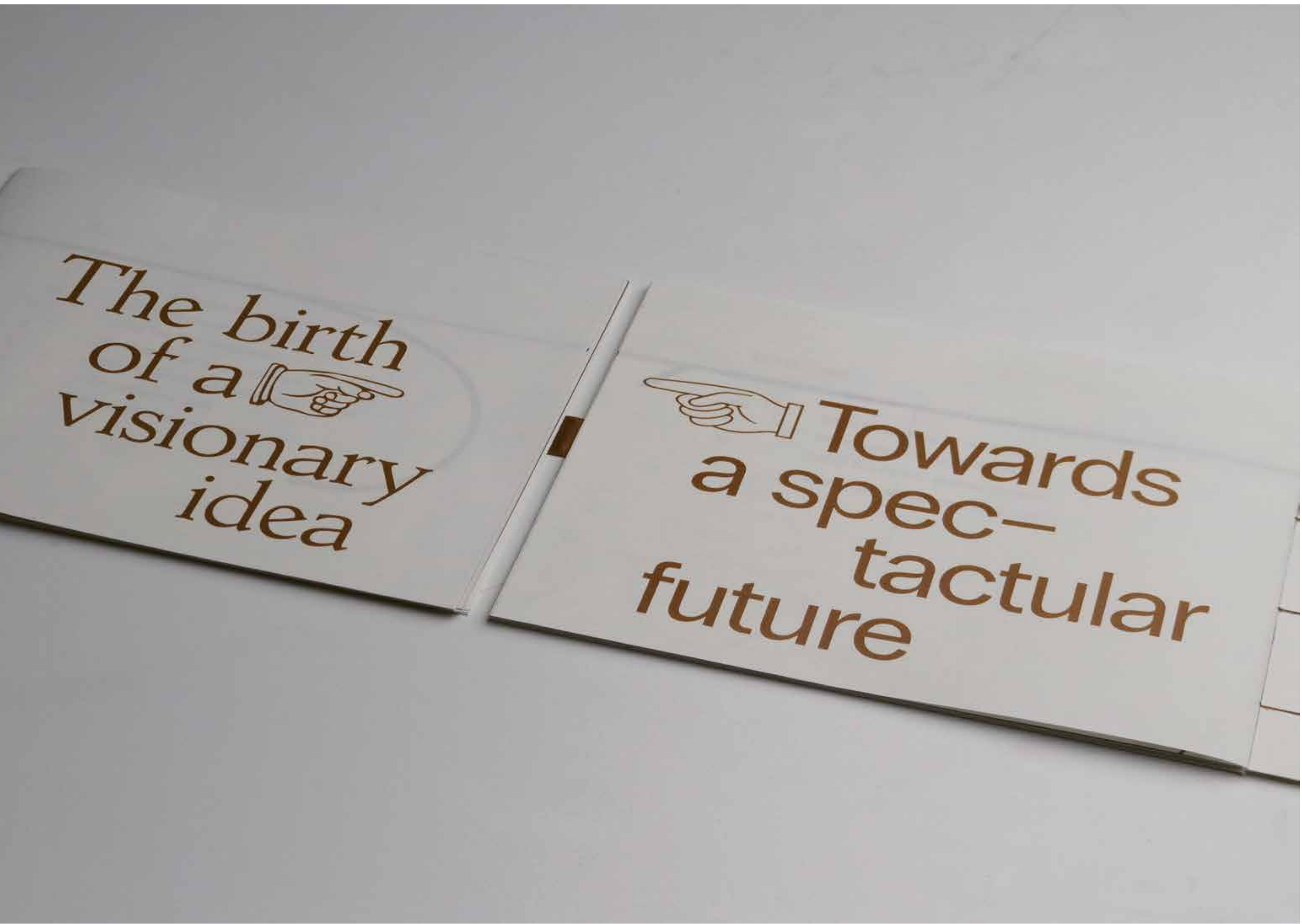
## 1,000,000.

### MICAH TABAK

Plant diversity underpins our ecosystems yet faces severe threats from nuclear war, global warming, and climate change. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault stands as a beacon of hope, safeguarding our future with over one million seed samples. Despite global uncertainty, this milestone represents nearly every nation's contribution to a shared effort of preservation. *1,000,000* communicates the significance of the Vault and marks its one-million-sample achievement.

Its magazine format draws inspiration from environmental publications such as *National Geographic*, while its smaller scale invites a more intimate reading experience. This balance positions it between a magazine and a small-format book—familiar as nonfiction yet distinct enough to encourage closer engagement. A thicker cover stock references the Vault's architectural resilience, while visible binding reveals the publication's own inner structure. Both choices mirror the Vault's role as a secure container, holding its content with care and intention.

Typography serves as the project's main interpretive device. Light micrographs of seeds are paired with typographic captions that connect the scientific and the poetic. Drawing from botanical illustration, the design links the Vault's mission to the long history of documenting plant diversity. Contemporary typefaces reinterpret hand-drawn precision through the Vault's brutalist character, while letter–number substitutions suggest how organic life can be stored and indexed through systems of language and data.

The typographic grid mirrors the Vault's shelving structure, transforming organization into a visual and conceptual framework. Monospaced typefaces reference the logic of digital seed records, their uniform spacing symbolizing collective effort.

Muted tones of tan, brown, and gold recall soil and plant life, balanced by colder elements that evoke the Vault's remote location and structure. Black-and-white imagery frames the milestone with the authority of historical record, creating a dialogue between the fragility of ecosystems and the resilience of preservation—on which our shared future depends.

**The Invention of Eyeglasses**

The first corrective eyeglasses appeared in Italy around 1268, and featured magnifying lenses connected by a hinge, made from materials like copper and wood. In the 15th century the printing press increased the demand for reading glasses, making them more common.

In the late 1700s, Spanish eyewear makers came up with a fix for glasses constantly slipping down the nose—they attached ribbons around the ears, which eventually led to modern temple arms.

The 18th century saw major advancements, including astigmatism correction and bifocal lenses.

By 1959, the progressive lenses emerged, offering seamless vision correction. Modern glasses no longer use glass but high-tech plastics, which are lighter and more durable. These innovations have made eyeglasses an essential tool for clear vision, improving millions of lives worldwide.

spec tac ular



The birth of a visionary idea

Towards a spec–tactular future



AVIATOR CAT EYE SQUARE FRAMES WINDSOR

From Function to Fashion

1900

The milestone of the invention of eyeglasses has had a significant impact on peoples lives all over the globe.

The Industrial Revolution changed everything. Glasses, once carefully hand-crafted, could now be produced in large quantities. This accessibility allowed more people than ever before to correct their vision, and with that came variety. Frame styles, materials, and construction methods diversified.





# How Spectacular!
**RUBY ROSS -HAYES**

*How Spectacular!* traces key milestones in the invention and evolution of eyeglasses. Designed to spark curiosity about this fascinating history, it appeals to both enthusiasts and those new to the topic. It could be found in an optometrist's waiting room, library, or bookshop—an ideal gift for a design-minded glasses wearer. The book explores the ideas of vision, blur, and focus with an educational yet lighthearted tone, accessible to a general audience.

The artefact consists of two small Coptic-bound books joined by a ribbon. The binding references glasses' hinges, while the delicate scale echoes their portable, fragile nature. The connecting ribbon recalls early methods of tying glasses to the head, and when opened, the two books resemble lenses, the ribbon forming the bridge and arms. The embossed and printed cover splits the word spectacular to play with focus and vision.

Readers navigate the format by reading Book Two backwards, guided by manicules. When opened, the covers form a pair of glasses: Book One depicts an older style, Book Two a modern one, symbolizing their respective eras. Book One covers 1100–1700, and Book Two spans 1800 to the present, following the Industrial Revolution's impact on eyeglass design.

Typography reflects each period: Book One uses Dutch Medieval Pro, echoing legible blackletter forms, while Book Two uses Radio Grotesk, a modern sans-serif that mirrors contemporary style through its distinctive lowercase 'a'. Sections are organized by decade, with blurred-to-clear decade numbers symbolizing optical progress. Linked 0's form a custom 'nose bridge' ligature, turning numbers into glasses. Tables at the bottom of spreads reference the scientific roots of optics, while Book Two's pullout text nods to the Snellen eye chart.

Printed on 80gsm Zeta Paper, the book uses the paper's translucency to evoke vision and focus. In Book One, pages 11 and 25 use this transparency to reveal words and explanations about specific eyeglass inventions beneath, further playing with the theme of bringing clarity into view.



Book One

Rudimentary visual aids such as reading stones, convex pieces of glass or quartz started to become increasingly popular among monks and scholars.

The First Eyeglasses

1300

The invention of the printing press in 1400 greatly increased the demand for eyeglasses, as reading became more common.

The earliest surviving rivet spectacles were discovered under the floorboards of the nun's choir-stalls in 1953 at Kloster Wienhausen in Northern Germany.

Pinching the nose without arms pince-nez

# PRES SURE
# PRES —TIGE ✳

Since its introduction in 1926, the Michelin star has become the most coveted milestone in the culinary landscape—a mark of mastery that brings restaurants to global recognition. Its influence has lasted nearly a century, driven by strict inspections and every detail that shapes the dining experience, from preparation and cooking to plating, service, and most importantly, the taste.

But this honour comes with an unrelenting weight. Behind the excellent food and flawless performance lies a world of pressure and the fear of falling short. Chefs push beyond limits, restaurants operate under crushing intensity, and the line between prestige and pressure blurs. To earn a star is a big achievement: it honours demand sacrifice and to keep it is a relentless pursuit.

**THE FIFTH CRITERIA**

THE CONSISTENCY CONSISTENCY CONSISTENCY CONSISTENCY CONSISTENCY CONSISTENCY CONSISTENCY CONSISTENCY CONSISTENCY BETWEEN VISITS

YOU ARE ALWAYS TAUGHT NEVER LET YOUR MISTAKES LEAVE THE KITCHEN. EVER.

In a more recent survey of 2019 survey of British Chefs, commissioned by the Swiss food giant Nestlé:

51%

87%

2/3 CHEFS STATED THAT THEY ARE OVERWORKED

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Allium (🧅), Animalic (🥚), Bramble & Hedge (🌿),
Brine & Salty (🫒), Cheesy (🧀), Citrussy (🍋),
Cruciferous (🌶️), Earthy (🥔), Creamy Fruity (🥥),
Dried Fruits (🫐), Fresh Fruity (🍓), Floral Fruity (🌸),
Sour Fruity (🍊), Dark Green (🌿), Light Green (🌿),
Green & Grass (🥝), Herbal (🌿), Leguminous (🫘),
Marine (🦐), Meadow (🌼), Meaty (🥩), Nutty Milky (🌰),
Mustardy (🌱), Prunus (🍑), Roasted (🍫),
Caramel Roasted (🍪), Spicy (🌶️), Sweet Starchy (🍠),
Sulphurous (🧄), Woodland (🌰), Spicy Woody (🌿),
Sweet Woody (🍒), Zesty Woody (🍋)*

*\* According to The Flavour Thesaurus, there are over 30 distinct flavour categories chefs may draw from.*

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# PRESTIGE & PRESSURE

**MARTIN TRAN**

**This advanced honours-level expressive typography course from our Visual Communication Design major works with a brief from the International Society of Typographic Designers. This year's brief was 'Milestones'. This project has been submitted to the prestigious ISTD student accreditation programme.**

This project responds to the ISTD *Milestones* brief by exploring the journey toward earning and holding a Michelin Star. The milestone is framed not as a historical timestamp but as a personal and collective achievement shaped by craft, discipline, and psychological endurance. The book shifts focus from the history of the Michelin Guide to the chefs behind the star, revealing the craft and pressure behind their recognition.

The project follows a storytelling-led approach structured around Michelin's five assessment criteria, each interpreted typographically as an entry point shaping rhythm and emphasis. These benchmarks act as narrative triggers, uncovering layers of technical and emotional experience. The result reframes the pursuit of a Michelin Star as a poetic process defined by both mastery and strain.

This narrative unfolds through two contrasting sections: *Prestige* and *Pressure*. *Prestige* celebrates culinary discipline and transformation, while *Pressure* exposes burnout and psychological toll. The tension between the two mirrors the lived reality of chefs, defining the Michelin Star as a milestone shaped as much by what is hidden as by what is celebrated.

A clean, restrained visual language and selective type system convey clarity and purpose. Inspired by the Michelin Guide's coded grid references, a key map labels content types with a letter-and-number system, adding structure and formality. The narrative opens with a neutral, archival tone before typography grows more expressive, reaching its peak intensity in *Pressure*.

This shift is reinforced by a vertical reading system that disrupts rhythm and invites slower engagement, reflecting the internalised nature of pressure. Layout and pacing mirror this tension—open and balanced in *Prestige*, compressed yet ordered in *Pressure*.
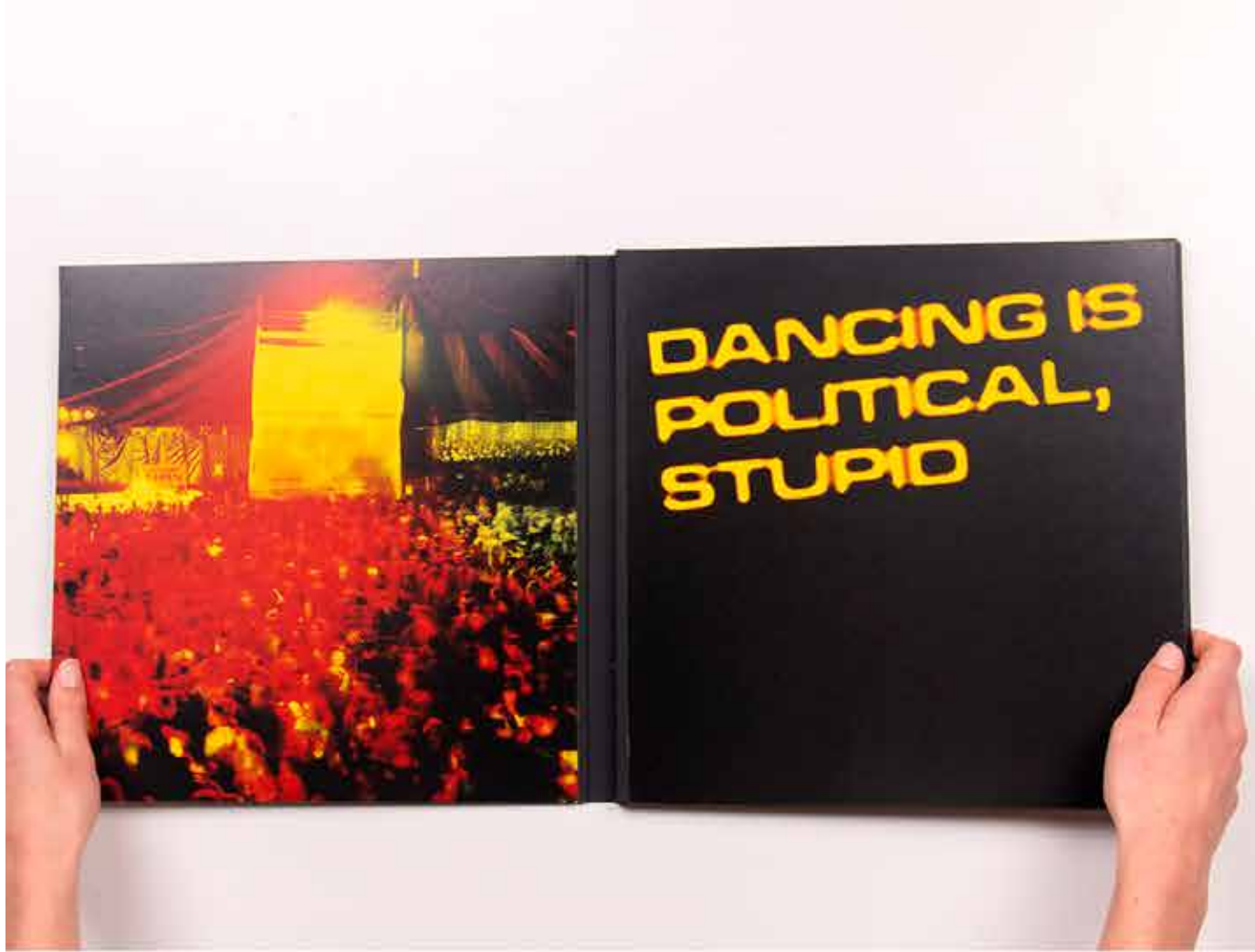
*Prestige & Pressure: The Milestone of Earning a Michelin Star* invites readers to look beyond recognition, uncovering passion, repetition, exhaustion, and belief at the heart of culinary excellence.

197434: Design for Awards and Competitions
Advanced Expressive Typography
Visual Communication Design

This advanced honours-level expressive typography course from our Visual Communication Design major works with a brief from the International Society of Typographic Designers. This year's brief was 'Milestones'. This project has been submitted to the prestigious ISTD student accreditation programme.

I identified milestones in rave culture as a rich topic for typographic exploration, beginning with the emergence of electronic dance music. The birth of Chicago House in the early 1980s marked a new era of club culture and dance.

My target audience spans two groups: younger generations embracing the revival of old school dance tracks, and those who lived through the original scene and miss the good old days. Despite the age gap, both are united by a love of music and movement. I imagine the book distributed in record stores, fairs, and clubs.

Researching authentic rave flyers from the 1980s–90s informed my typeface selection. Microgramma Extended and Eurostyle evoke the sci-fi aesthetic of the second Summer of Love, while OCR A Std, used in captions and tip-ins, nods to 90s flyers and early computer culture. Bitcount Grid Single recalls LED meters on DJ decks and appears in quotes, running headers, and page numbers. Roboto Mono was used for tip-ins, inspired by the typewritten look of text-heavy flyers.

Reflecting dance music's material culture, the book is packaged in a vinyl record sleeve with its 'tracklist' on the back. Single sheets bound with prong fasteners reference the DIY ethos of early raves. A black, yellow, and cyan palette mirrors nightlife and neon attire.

Ink bleed effects, spray painted stencils, and waveform-shaped lyrics convey the grit and spontaneity of acid house. Photography adopts a coarse, screened texture for a raw feel. The visual system's stacked words, asymmetry, and angled elements mimic the rhythm of 90s drum patterns. Varied paper stocks and tip-ins create a fast-paced, eclectic rhythm, while a modular 9×18 grid brings structure. The result balances playfulness with seriousness, capturing rave culture's creative energy and lasting social impact.

**2280 DAYS IN CRIPPLING PAIN; CONGRATULATIONS!**

<title>
2280 DAYS IN CRIPPLING
PAIN; CONGRATULATIONS!
</title>

<intro>
Code red! You've just gotten your first period, now it's time to figure out how to 'go with the flow'. Getting your first period is a huge milestone in every girl's life, transforming into a mature woman, rich with life experience, wisdom and a fledgling reproductive system.

It's a physical sign that your body is evolving, stepping into a cycle that connects you to generations before you. It's not just about biology; it's about responsibility, understanding yourself, and navigating something profoundly personal yet universally experienced.

Though it can be overwhelming, it's also a reminder of resilience. It teaches you to listen to your body, prepare for the unexpected, and embrace change. It's a quiet but powerful shift, signalling the start of adulthood.
</intro>

Code
Red ↲
Womanhood
Detected

A Milestone in
Women's Biology

<Contents>

**<CODE RED>**

**EMILIA PERRY**

In responding to the ISTD *Milestones* brief, I wanted to highlight something personal rather than purely historical. At first, I thought about moments when a young woman first realises how her gender affects her — like being catcalled. I played around with phrases such as 'you should smile more' or 'take it as a compliment', but in the end, I wanted something that felt more positive: a girl's first period. It's not always a great experience, but it's a huge milestone — one we're rarely encouraged to acknowledge.

My audience is young women, so I focused on creating something visually engaging and relatable. The tone is informative yet lighthearted, with design used as a tool to normalise and celebrate an often-avoided topic. The visual language centres around a coded theme, comparing the menstrual cycle to a biological system running quietly in the background — powering everything we do, but rarely visible. Glitching elements appear throughout, as if the system can't quite handle the conversation, mirroring social discomfort around periods.

I used a monospace typeface from Pangram Pangram Foundry to reinforce the code aesthetic, while imagery and page numbers 'bleed' off the page — both literally and conceptually. The magenta palette nods to feminist artists like the Guerrilla Girls and Judy Chicago, reclaiming pink as a colour of strength, with cyan accents enhancing the digital feel. CSS tags like '<h1>' and '<section>' structure the narrative, moving from the lack of menstrual education, to understanding the cycle itself, and ending with a reimagined first-period experience.

An excerpt from Hippocrates bleeds out visually to mark his flawed theories, while a coptic binding with metallic blue thread provides both structural contrast and visual continuity within the palette. The result is a piece that uses design to decode stigma and reframe a defining female milestone.