

Guide to the Tara Emelye Needham and Sasha Cagen Cupsize Zinester Ephemera Collection SC10.15

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

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Summary Information

Repository:	Barnard Archives and Special Collections
Creator:	Cagen, Sasha
Title:	Tara Emelye Needham and Sasha Cagen Cupsize Zinester Ephemera Collection
ID:	SC10.15
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/2/resources/414
Date [inclusive]:	1990-1999
Physical Description:	3.36 Linear Feet 8 document boxes
Physical Location:	This collection is located in the Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library. To use this collection, please contact the Barnard Archives and Special Collections at 212.854.4079 or archives@barnard.edu.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Tara Emelye Needham and Sasha Cagen <i>Cupsize</i> Zinester Ephemera Collection includes drafts and copies of various issues of the 1990s riot grrrl zine <i>Cupsize</i> , correspondence with other zinesters, fanmail, zine distros materials, promotional materials, flyers, and zines created by other zinesters. The collection highlights a culture of exchange between zinesters sharing resources as well as each others' zines in the 1990s.

Preferred Citation

Tara Emelye Needham and Sasha Cagen Cupsize Collection, 1990-1999; Box and Folder; Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library, Barnard College.

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Biography

Cupsize was a zine covering feminism, music, politics, riot grrrl, bisexuality, and pop culture, among other topics, published from 1994-1996. During and after its publication run, *Cupsize*

was featured in the *New York Times*, *Newsday*, and museum exhibitions. Excerpts of *Cupsize* were re-printed and published in *The Riot Grrrl Collection*, *"A Girl's Guide to Taking Over the World"*, and other anthologies.

Tara Emelye Needham and Sasha Cagen co-created and co-edited *Cupsize* during the "girl zine revolution" of the mid-1990s, while Needham was a student at SUNY Stony Brook and Cagen was a student at Barnard College. Needham is a poet, essayist, musician, writer, and educator. She has performed music with her bands The Reverse, mad planets, and The Chandler Estate; written and taught feminist theory, literature, and postcolonial literature; and most recently worked as the Assistant Academic Director at the Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities at Bard College. Cagen (BC '96) is a writer, editor, entrepreneur, and originator of the phrase "quirkyalone." She is now an executive life coach.

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Collection Scope and Content Summary

The Tara Emelye Needham and Sasha Cagen Cupsize collection contains materials related to the creation and distribution of *Cupsize* (including drafts with handwritten notes, letters intended to be inserted into the final copy, and draft copies); materials exchanged with other zinesters (traded zines, correspondence, and other ephemera), and promotional materials for events and zine distros.

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Collection Arrangement

The collection was kept in roughly the same physical order in which it was received. The collection is organized in the finding aid in two series as follows:

- Series 1: *Cupsize* materials
- Series 2: Zinester exchange materials and ephemera

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

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New York, NY 10027

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Revision Description

Revised in 2022 to add description written by Olivia Newsome (updated title, subjects, arrangement, biographical note, and scope and contents, along with component description). 2022

Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Accruals

Additions are not expected.

Acquisition Information

Donated by Tara Emelye Needham in 2018.

Processing History

This collection was first accessioned by and a preliminary finding aid created by Sarah Barlow-Ochshorn in 2019. The finding aid was written by Olivia Newsome in 2022. Finding aid adheres to rules prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Publication Rights

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Controlled Access Headings

- Zines
- Personal zines
- Zines -- Women authors
- Feminist theory
- Correspondence
- LGBTQ + zines
- Bisexual activism
- Bisexual rights
- Bisexual women
- Queer artists
- White bisexual people
- Riot grrrl movement
- Feminism
- DIY
- Punk culture and art
- Nineteen nineties
- activism
- Barnard College -- Alumni and alumnae
- Zinesters

Collection Inventory

Cupsize materials

box 1, 7-8

Scope and Contents

The *Cupsize materials* series includes drafts of issues (including issue #5, fall issue volume 1, issue #4, and multiple unnumbered drafts and incomplete issues) with handwritten notes, layouts, and letters for inclusion in the final issues; a master copy of issue #5; a guest book

for a *Cupsize* party; and materials including images
newspaper clippings used in the making of *Cupsize*.

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Zinester exchange materials and ephemera

box 1-7

Scope and Contents

The zinester exchange materials and ephemera series contains handwritten correspondence between the co-editors of *Cupsize* and other zinesters and fans of *Cupsize*. Usually, exchanges included zines, trades, or other useful information about how to make and distribute zines. This series also contains the zines, magazines, and other received as a trade for an issue of *Cupsize*; promotional materials including flyers and posters for events; and magazines and documentation of zine-centered bookstores, collectives, and distros.

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