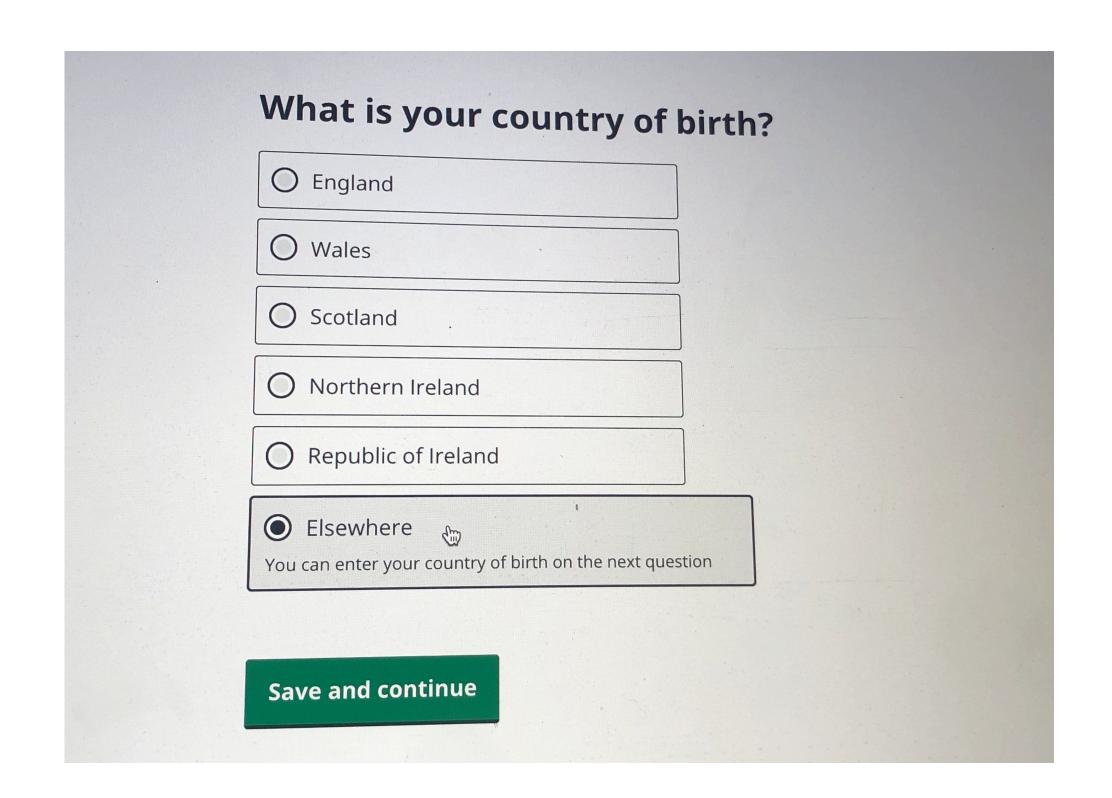
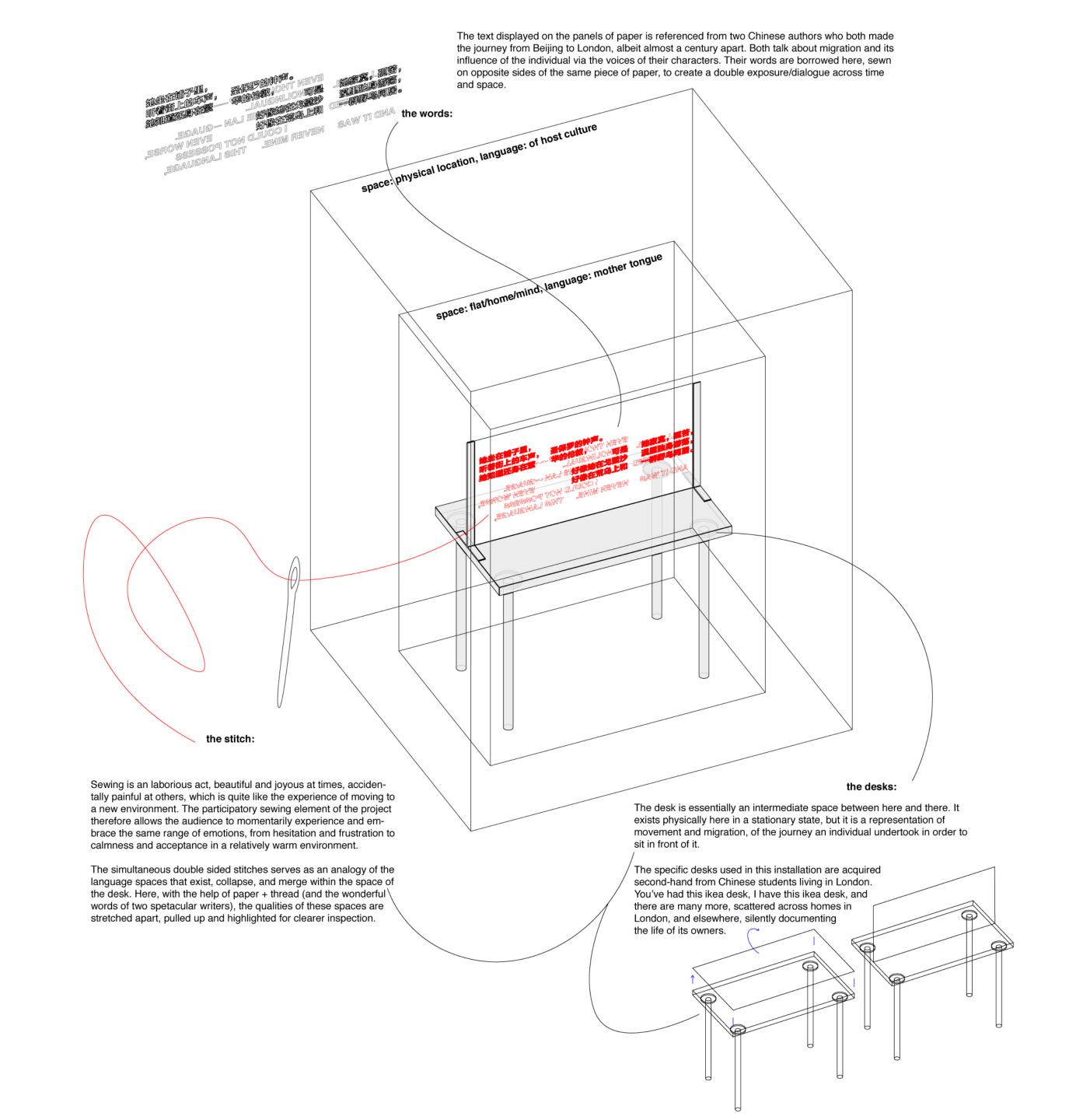
# elsewhere 异乡

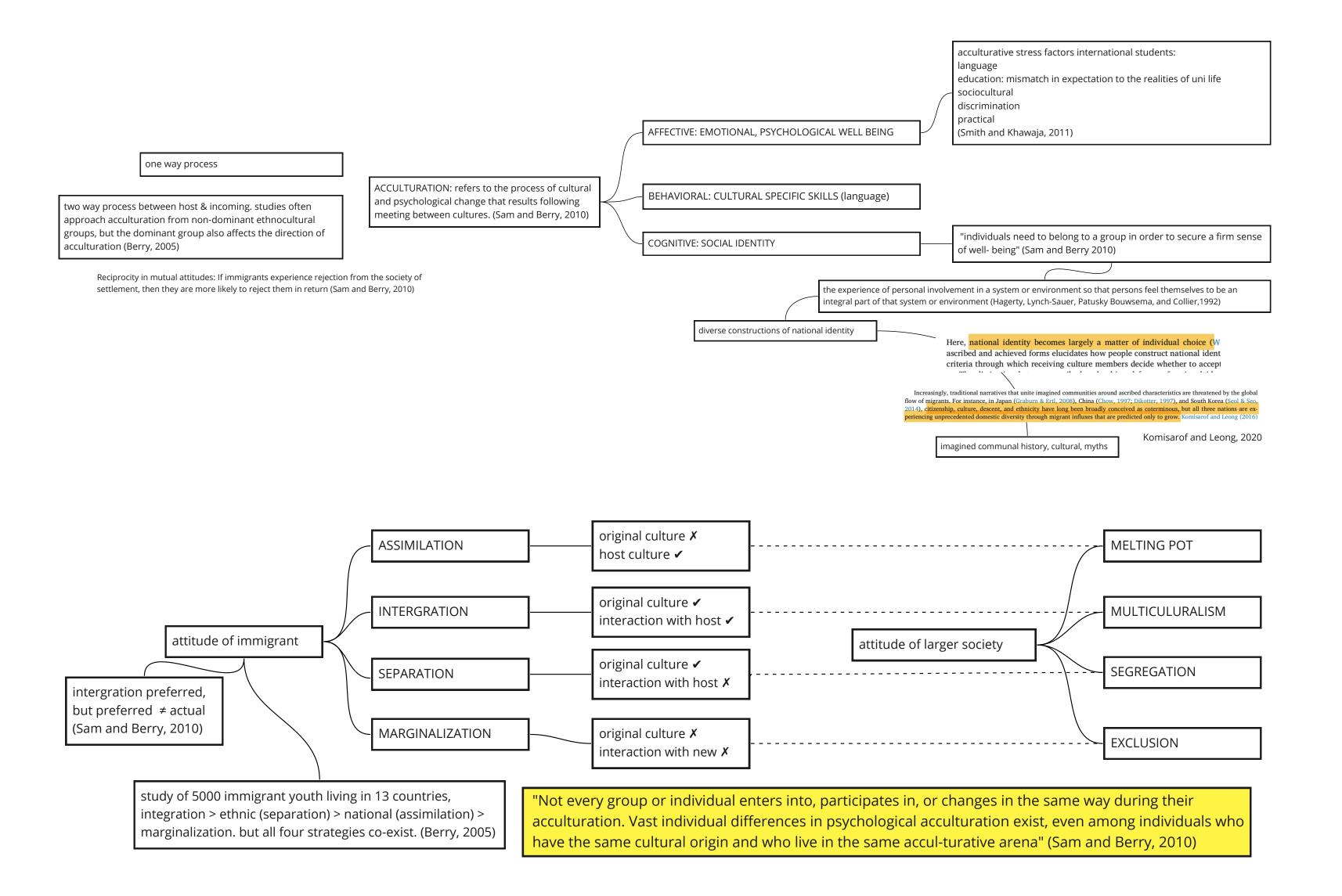


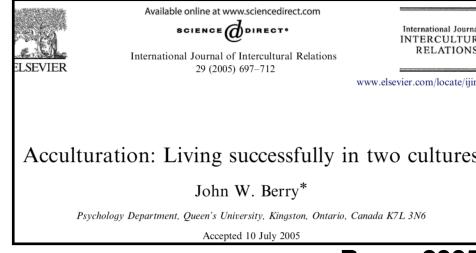




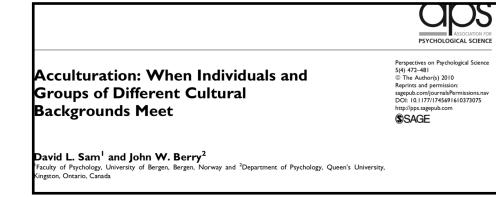
#### historical context: chinese migrants in London contemporary historical cultural/ethnic (diaspora) han 汉 "CHINESE" "non Chinese ruled" dynasties: -yuan 元 mongol ethnic minorites -qing 清 manchu tps://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/summaries/chinese-ethnic-group political affiliation hinese: self identifying other non-ruling ethnic minorities: excerpt from graph: Percentage of the Chinese population neither referred to as Chinese nor non-Chinese of England and Wales living in each local authority area (top 13 areas labelled). England & Wales census data 1911 census: 582 1931 census: 1934 -gather around universities 1961 census: 38,730 -cities of departure and arrival both important in migrating decisions, -for mainland chinese, beijing is an important pit -uk immigration laws shifting who gets to legally migrate, family ties and associations not enough, thus also signifying a shift in the resources (skills, 2011 census: 393,141 knowledge, rather than money) accumulated to //chapterId/2614/Chinese-in-the-Port-of-London.html 25.2% 18-24, 12.2% 25 to 29 take back when returning, although PR more common among HK migrants -a single "chinese community" does not really exist, uk entry is "solitary business", soho chinatown not early 20th century & before: limehouse (cantonese), pennyfields (shanghainese) center of life seafare/sailors, predominantly men chinese laundries, dwindle after at home washing machines + launderettes appeared 1974, mentions that chinese in london are dispersed, soho rent too high to sustain a residential convergence post ww2: move to bayswater, soho (gerrad street) Chinese communities in London, 20th Century property was cheap, send money back + save to bring family over language "Man" village & people, migration: "an restaurants, catering chinese: ethnicity economic venture" , "transients in an alien culture - sojourners working only for the memory day when they can retire to their home RESTAURANTS AND REMITTANCES: ttp://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item107673.html village" (219). personal collective CHINESE EMIGRANT WORKERS "the chinese restaurant - we came the right time, in the right IN LONDON identity place and do it right" James L. Watson open late, with "carpet and tableclothes" historical now "we don't insist to say you have to have Chinese"

### social context: acculturation





**Berry, 2005** 



#### Sam and Berry, 2010



### Smith and Khawaja, 2011



Komisarof and Leong, 2020

# artistic context: spatial

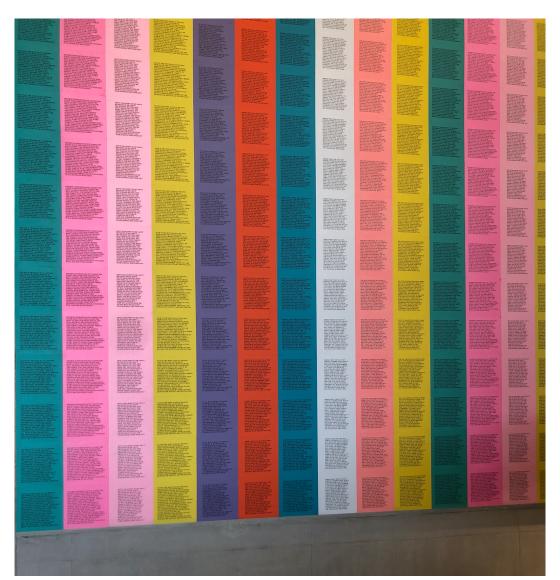


Martha Rosler, If You Lived Here, 1989 http://www.martharosler.net/if-you-lived-here-carousel

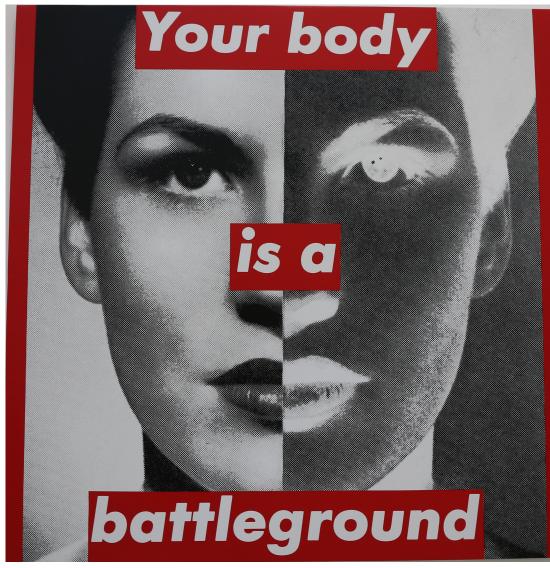


Rirkrit Tiravanija, Tomorrow is the Question, 2019 https://www.kurimanzutto.com/news/rirkrit-tiravanija-tomorrow-is-the-question

# artistic context: language







Barbara Kruger, Your Body is a Battleground, 2016 at The Broad

### artistic context: life



Instagram Post @chinesegraffitihub https://www.instagram.com/p/CNrM83KneJ6/



Instagram Post @chinesegraffitihub https://www.instagram.com/p/CNfa4SRnVBu/



野字bot

1-13 07:47 来自 微博国际版 已编辑

来自豆瓣 #禁止禁止#



Weibo Post @野字bot https://weibo.com/7441955335/JCZCj0mkX



野字bot

2-19 08:42 来自 微博国际版 分享图片



Weibo Post @野字bot https://weibo.com/7441955335/K2Fko7906

desk as a space

### desk: text reference

I never changed my Chinese name, but I sensed the ease with which my Chinese identity became distinct from my American self. Eventually, I came to think of myself as two people, Ho Wei and Peter Hessler. Ho Wei wasn't really a person until my second year in Fuling, but as time passed I realized that he was becoming most of my identity: apart from my students, colleagues, and the other foreigners, everybody knew me strictly as Ho Wei, and they knew me strictly in Chinese. Ho Wei was completely different from my

twice or write new words in his notebook. Ho Wei always carried his notebook in his pocket, using it to study the new words, as well as to jot down notes from conversations. And when Ho Wei returned home he left the notebook on the desk of Peter Hessler, who typed everything into his computer.

I had two desks in my apartment. One was for studying Chinese, and the other was for writing; one desk was Ho Wei's and the other belonged to Peter Hessler. Sometimes this relationship unnerved me—it seemed wrong that behind Ho Wei's stupidity there was another person watching everything intently and taking notes. But I could think of no easy resolution to this divide; I had my Chinese life and my American life, and even if they occupied similar territory, they were completely different. My apartment was big and I kept the desks in separate rooms. Ho Wei and Peter Hessler never met each other. The notebook was the only thing they truly shared.

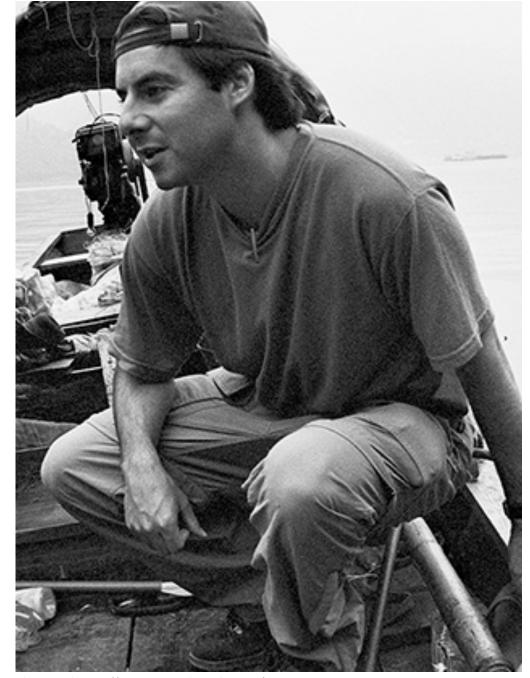


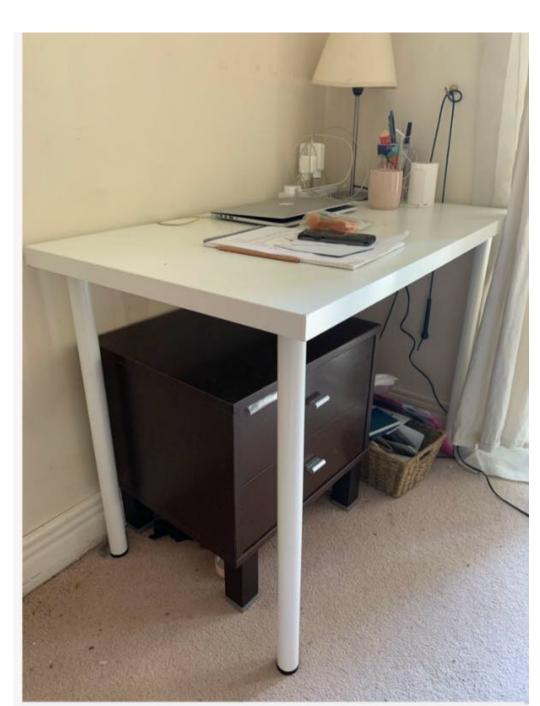
image: https://www.peterhessler.net/

excerpt from River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze

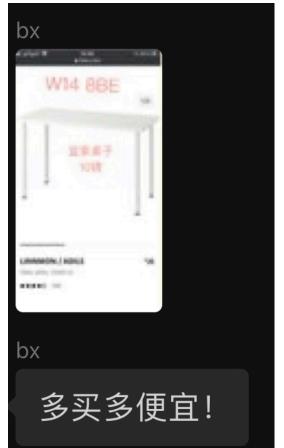
## desk: visual reference, 2nd hand ikea tables from buy & sell groups







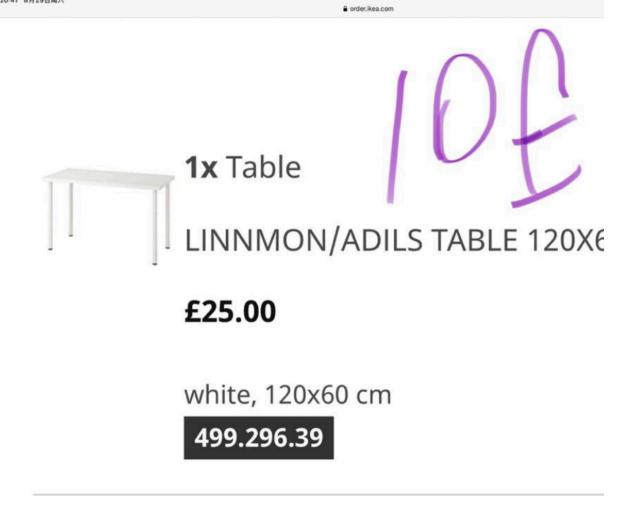


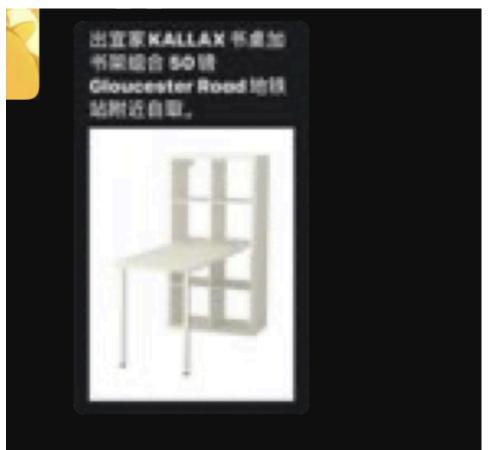






battersea 自取~!





got these three

### desk: visual reference from weibo & douban

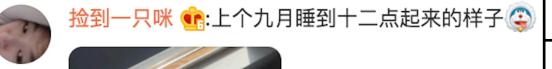


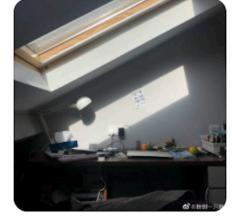
douban: 10 replies :(((

sent in a forum titled "can i see your desk" https://www.douban.com/group/topic/218334565/









4-13 15:33

茶叶煮奶:哇 我在谢菲也住过这样的房子

weibo: 100+ replies :)))

asked account about living in uk to send for me <a href="https://weibo.com/1909229055/KaKEG3uLt">https://weibo.com/1909229055/KaKEG3uLt</a>



# text references aka the writers who have my

老舍 lǎo shě

first iteration: **chinese** + **literal** translation



image: https://tinyurl.com/2pm74553

-1920s

-third person

### **Books:**

二马 Mr. Ma and His Son

赵子曰 Zhao Ziyue

老张的哲学 Lao Zhang's Philosophy

-2000s onwards -first person

**Books and Articles:** A Lover's Discourse A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers One Language is Not Enough (Guardian Article)

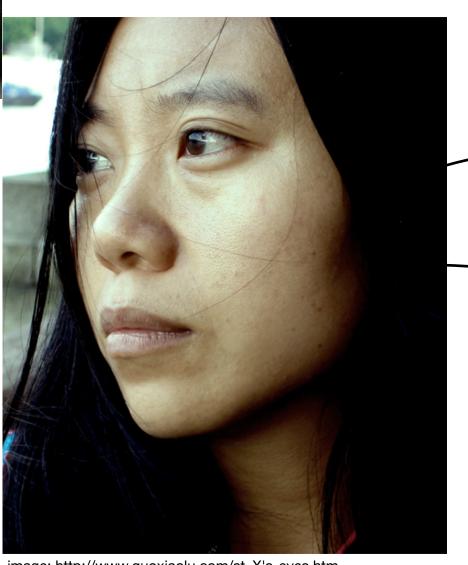


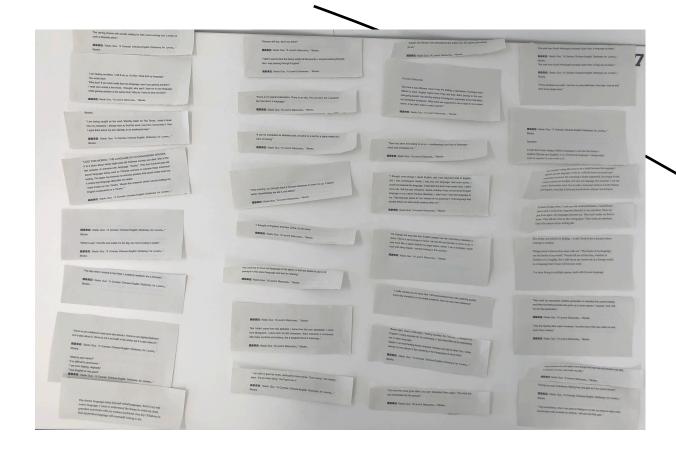
image: http://www.guoxiaolu.com/st\_X's-eyes.htm

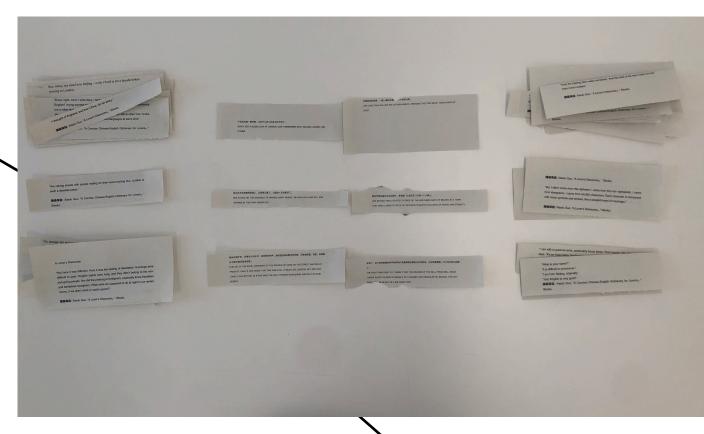
郭小橹 guō xiǎolǔ

second iteration: chinese + english loose match

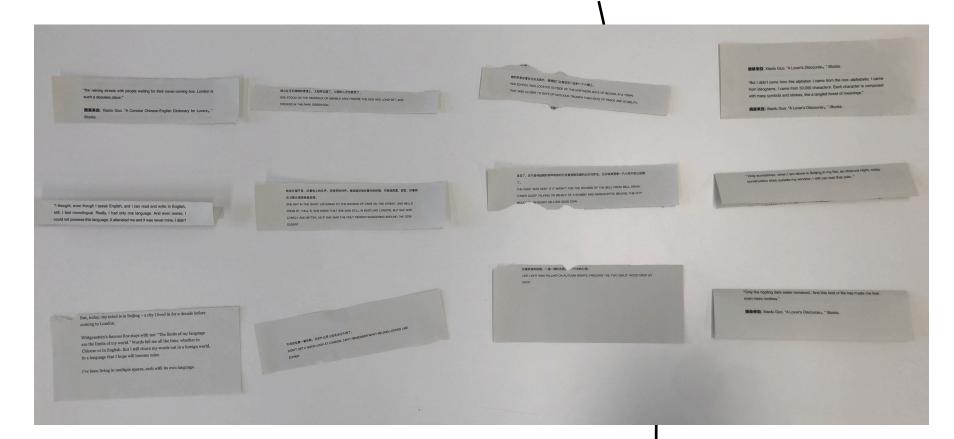
## the process

### 1.all quotes printed out





3. pick out the one that matches the best



2.grouped according to match with chinese text

## matching text according to key elements

什么样子都没看;已经到了伦敦,干什么还看,这不是多此一举吗!不但没有

看一看伦敦, 北京什么样儿也有点记不清了, 虽然才离开了四五十天的工夫。

到底四牌楼南边有个饽饽铺没有?想不起来了!哎呀,北京的饽饽也吃不着

马威立在玉石牌楼的便道上,太阳早已落了,公园的人们也散尽了。他面 quickly. The slow and noisy tube, the oily fish and chip 前只有三个影儿:一个无望的父亲,一个忠诚的李子荣,一个可爱的玛力。父 shop, the dim and crowded pubs, the raining streets london, street scene london, street scene with people waiting for their never-coming bus. Lon-亲和他谈不到一块,玛力不接受他的爱心,他只好对不起李子荣了! 走! 离开 don is such a desolate place. 他们! "我对不起人,对不起老张,欠债不还,以死搪塞,不光明,不英雄!"老 dancing dragonflies. Suddenly a gust of wind came and the 人声音更微细了,好像秋夜的细雨,一滴一滴的冷透那两个少年的心情。"你 lotuses dissolved. Only the rippling dark water remained. - rain, sadness water, drifting — 'And this kind of life has made me feel even more rootless.' 们,王德,李应,记住了:好人便是恶人的俘虏,假如好人不持着正义和恶人 But all these thoughts don't matter too much any-夜深了,若不是钟鼓楼的钟声咚咚的代表着寒酸贪睡的北京说梦话,北京 more. Only sometimes, when I am alone in Beijing in 城真要像一只大死牛那么静寂了。鬼似的小风卷着几片还不很成熟的雪花,像 beijing, night, noise beijing, night, noise my flat, an obscure night, noisy construction sites out-几个淘气的小白蛾,在电灯下飞舞。虽然只是初冬的天气,却已经把站街的巡 side my window, I still can feel that pain. Yes, the 警冻得缩着脖子往避风阁里跑了。 ing and laughing. I thought, even though I speak English, 他坐在铺子里,听着街上的车声,圣保罗堂的钟声,他知道还身在最繁华 and I can read and write in English, still, I feel monolingual. london, loneliness english, alienation— 热闹的伦敦,可是他寂寞,孤苦,好像他在戈壁沙漠里独身游荡,好像在荒岛 Really, I had only one language. And even worse, I could not possess this language. It alienated me and it was never 上和一群野鸟同居。 mine. I didn't know why I felt this way. Whatever I spoke, just like most European languages – the same alphabet. But I 真的!他有他自己立的学堂! didn't come from this alphabet. I came from the non-alphabeijing, school english, language — 他的学堂坐落在北京北城外,离德胜门比离安定门近的一个小镇上。坐北 betic. I came from ideograms. I came from 50,000 charac-朝南的一所小四合房,包着东西长南北短的一个小院子。临街三间是老张的杂 ters. Each character is composed with many symbols and 他到英国来,真像个摸不清的梦:做买卖他不懂;不但不懂,而且向来看 不起做买卖的人。发财大道是做官;做买卖,拿着血汗挣钱,没出息!不高 beijing, london novels, while studying some German. But, today, my mind is in 明!俗气!一点目的没有,一点计划没有,还叼着烟袋在书房里坐着。"已到 beijing, london Beijing - a city I lived in for a decade before coming to London. 了英国,"坐腻了,忽然这么想:"马威有机会念书,将来回去做官! ......咱 unable to express Wittgenstein's famous line stays with me: "The limits of my language are the can't remember limits of my world." Words fail me all the time, whether in Chinese or in 呢?吃太平饭吧!哈哈!……"除此以外,连把窗帘打开看看到底伦敦的胡同

like a dream

English. But I still churn my words out in a foreign world, in a language that I

hope will become mine.

vagueness

### final text

#### 《二马》 Mr Ma and His Son

她(马威)立在玉石牌楼的便道上,太阳早已落了,公园的人们也散尽了。

SHE STOOD ON THE SIDEWALK OF MARBLE ARCH. THE SUN HAD LONG SET, AND CROWDS IN THE PARK HAD DISSIPATED.

EDITED ORIGINAL CHINESE 马威 -> 她 Ma Wei (character name) -> She

#### 《老张的哲学》 Lao Zhang's Philosophy

好像秋夜的细雨,一滴一滴的冷透那两个少女(少年)的心情。

LIKE LIGHT RAIN FALLING ON AUTUMN NIGHTS, FREEZING THE TWO GIRLS' MOOD DROP BY DROP.

EDITED ORIGINAL CHINESE 少年 -> 少女 Young Men -> Young Women

#### 《赵子曰》 Zhao Ziyue

夜深了,若不是钟鼓楼的钟声咚咚的代表着寒酸贪睡的北京说梦话,北京城真要像一只大死牛那么静寂了。

THE NIGHT WAS DEEP. IF IT WASN'T FOR THE SOUNDS OF THE BELL FROM BELL DRUM TOWER SLEEP TALKING ON BEHALF OF A SHABBY AND NARCOLEPTIC BEIJING, THE CITY WOULD BE AS SILENT AS A BIG DEAD COW.

#### 《二马》 Mr Ma and His Son

她(他)坐在铺子里,听着街上的车声,圣保罗的钟声。她(他)知道还身在最繁华热闹的伦敦,可是她寂寞,孤苦,好像她(他)在戈壁沙漠里独身游荡,好像在荒岛上和一群野鸟同居。

SHE SAT IN THE SHOP, LISTENING TO THE SOUNDS OF CARS ON THE STREET, AND BELLS FROM ST. PAUL'S. SHE KNEW THAT SHE WAS STILL IN BUSTLING LONDON, BUT SHE WAS LONELY AND BITTER, AS IF SHE WAS THE ONLY PERSON WANDERING AROUND THE GOBI DESERT, AS IF SHE WAS LIVING ON A STRANDED ISLAND WITH WILD BIRDS.

EDITED ORIGINAL CHINESE 他 -> 她 He -> She

#### 《老张的哲学》 Lao Zhang's Philosophy

她(他)的学堂坐落在北京北城外,离德胜门比离安定门近的一个小镇上。

HER SCHOOL WAS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE NORTHERN GATE OF BEIJING, IN A TOWN THAT WAS CLOSER TO GATE OF VIRTUOUS TRIUMPH THAN THE GATE OF PEACE AND STABILITY.

EDITED ORIGINAL CHINESE 他 -> 她 Him -> Her

#### 《二马》 Mr Ma and His Son

不但没有看一看伦敦,北京什么样儿也有点记不清了。到底四牌楼南边有个饽饽铺没有?她(他)到英国来,真像个摸不清的梦。DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT LONDON. CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT BEIJING LOOKED LIKE EITHER. WAS THERE A PASTRY SHOP BY THE FOUR ARCHWAY GATES? COMING TO ENGLAND WAS LIKE A VAGUE DREAM FOR HER.

EDITED ORIGINAL CHINESE 他 -> 她 Him -> Her

舒庆春 伦敦 1924 – 1929 Shu Qingchun London 1924–1929

#### **A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers**

RAINING STREETS WITH PEOPLE WAITING FOR THEIR NEVER-COMING BUS. LONDON IS SUCH A DESOLATE PLACE.

下雨的街承载着那些等待着永远都不会来的巴士的人们。伦敦可真是一个凄凉的地方。

#### A Lover's Discourse

ONLY THE RIPPLING DARK WATER REMAINED. 'AND THIS KIND OF LIFE HAS MADE ME FEEL EVEN MORE ROOTLESS.'

只剩下这表面涟漪的深水。这种生活让我更加没有根。

#### A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers

WHEN I AM ALONE IN BEIJING IN MY FLAT, AN OBSCURE NIGHT, NOISY CONSTRUCTION SITES OUTSIDE MY WINDOW, I STILL CAN FEEL THAT PAIN. 有时候,当我一个人呆在北京的公寓里,一个无名的夜里,窗外的工地吵闹着,我依然能感到那种痛。

#### **A Lover's Discourse**

EVEN THOUGH I SPEAK ENGLISH, (....) STILL, I FEEL MONOLINGUAL. REALLY, I HAD ONLY ONE LANGUAGE. (AND) EVEN WORSE, I COULD NOT POSSESS THIS LANGUAGE. IT ALIENATED ME AND IT WAS NEVER MINE.

虽然我可以讲英语,我依然感觉我是一个单语者。我只有一种语言,且我却无法拥有它。它背离我,也不曾是我的。

#### **OMITTED WORDS IN BETWEEN**

#### A Lover's Discourse

I DIDN'T COME FROM THIS ALPHABET. I CAME FROM THE NON-ALPHABETIC. I CAME FROM IDEOGRAMS. I CAME FROM 50,000 CHARACTERS. 可我不属于这个字母表。我属于非字母表。我来自表意文字。我来自50000个字。

#### One Language is Not Enough

MY MIND IS IN BEIJING – A CITY I LIVED IN FOR A DECADE BEFORE COMING TO LONDON. WORDS FAIL ME ALL THE TIME, WHETHER IN CHINESE OR IN ENGLISH. BUT I STILL CHURN MY WORDS OUT IN A FOREIGN WORLD, IN A LANGUAGE THAT I HOPE WILL BECOME MINE.

我的思绪留在了北京,这个我在搬到伦敦前住了十年的城市。言语总是辜负我,无论是中文还是英语。但我依然用一种我期待将会属于我的语言,将我的文字翻腾到这个陌生的世界里。

#### 郭小橹 也许在伦敦 2007 (Concise) 2016 (Language) 2020 (Discourse)

Guo Xiaolu (maybe in London) 2007 (Concise) 2016 (Language) 2020 (Discourse)

### text blocked out in illustrator

她立在玉石牌楼的便道上, 太阳早已落了, 公园的人们也散尽了。

RAINING STREETS WITH
PEOPLE WAITING FOR THEIR
NEVER-COMING BUS.
LONDON IS SUCH A DESOLATE PLACE.

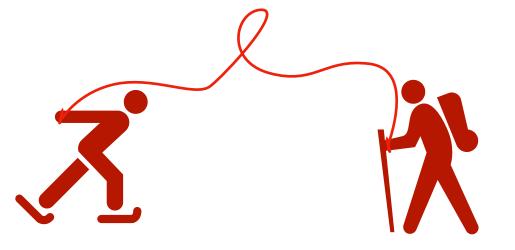
 THE MORT EMPORT IN TABLE IN TABLE IN TABLE IN THE NORTH IN TABLE AND IN THE NORTH IN THE NORTH

FOR IN TO A CITY I LIVED IN FOR A PORT A MAINE A MUNICIPAL TO A DECADE BEFORE COMING TO A DECADE BEFORE COMING TO A DECADE BEFORE COMING TO A DECADE MAINE ALL THE TIME, WHETHER IN THE CHURN CHURN I THE SECOND WORLD, IN A MAINE 像 个 MODE WILL BECOME \*\*

A CITY I LIVE I WANTE A MAINE A

paper & stitch

## paper + stitching: choices







### red thread in Chinese culture:

月老 (yuè lǎo) connects two people meant to be together with an invisible red thread

wearing red thread bracelets to ward of bad luck during your 本命年 (běn mìng nián), sometimes thought of as a bad year

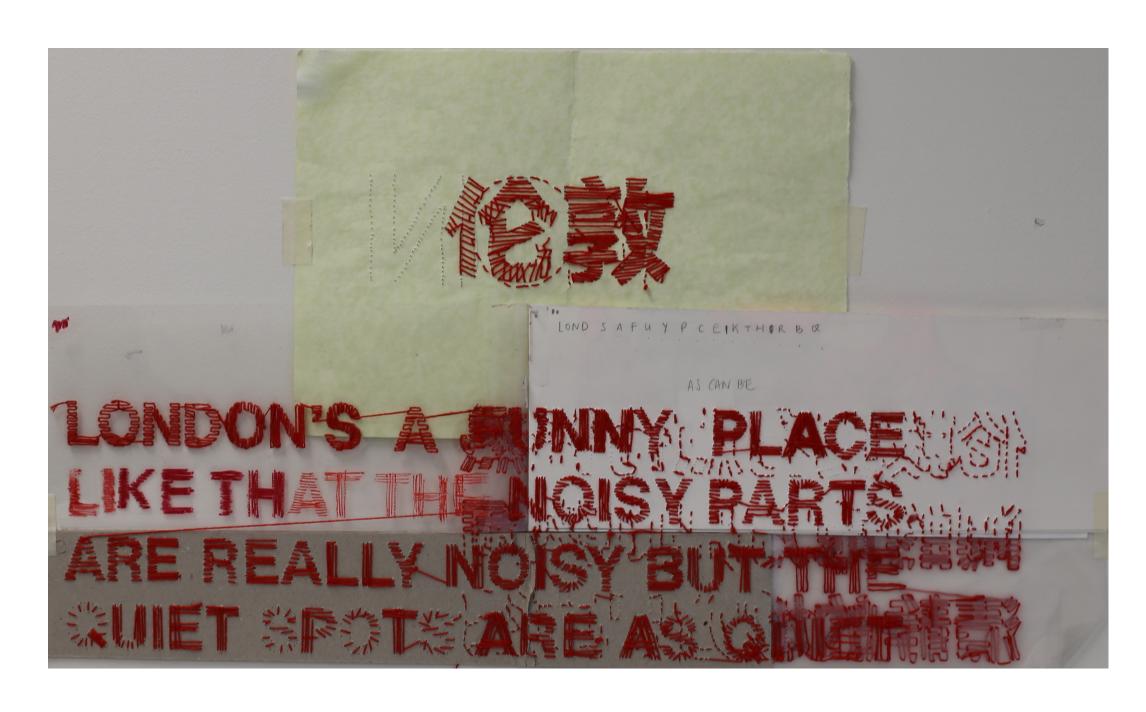
color red = general good vibes

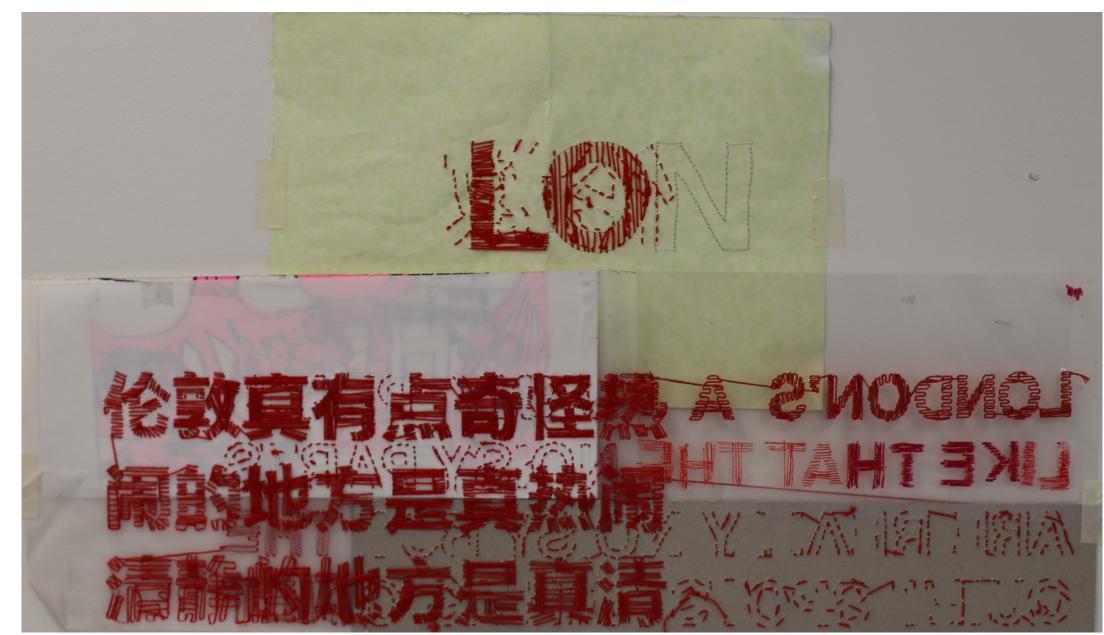
### paper:

gives the two languages equal footing, whereas with fabric usually outward facing side is more important than the inward

255gsm somerset velvet doesn't tear easily, good weight matte texture

## paper + stitching: proof of concept test



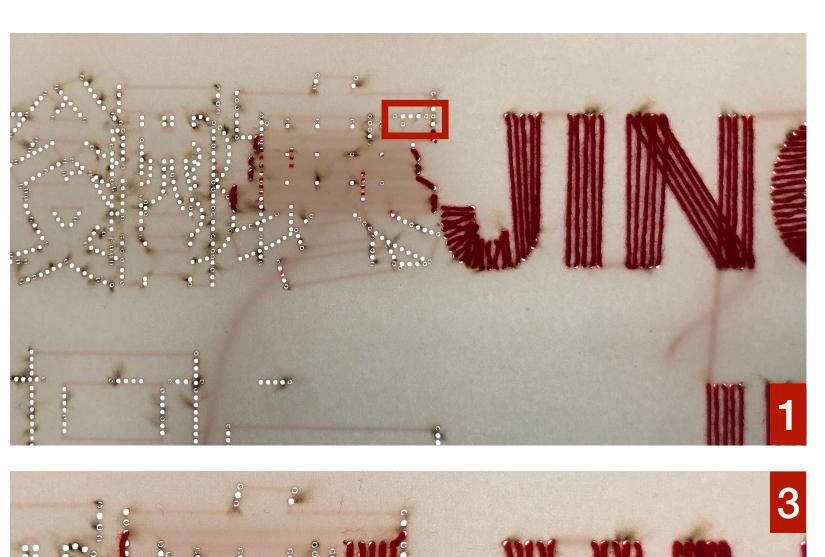


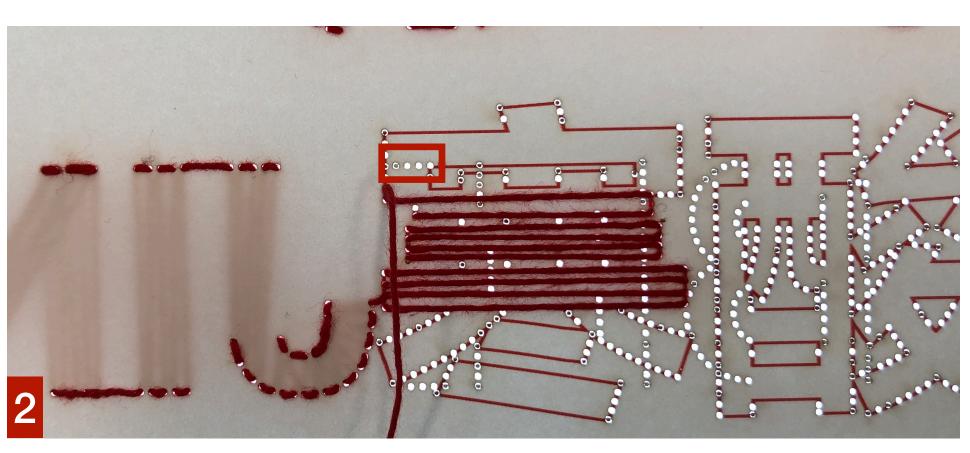
### testing:

feasibility of two sided embroidery on paper ✔ readability of words ✔

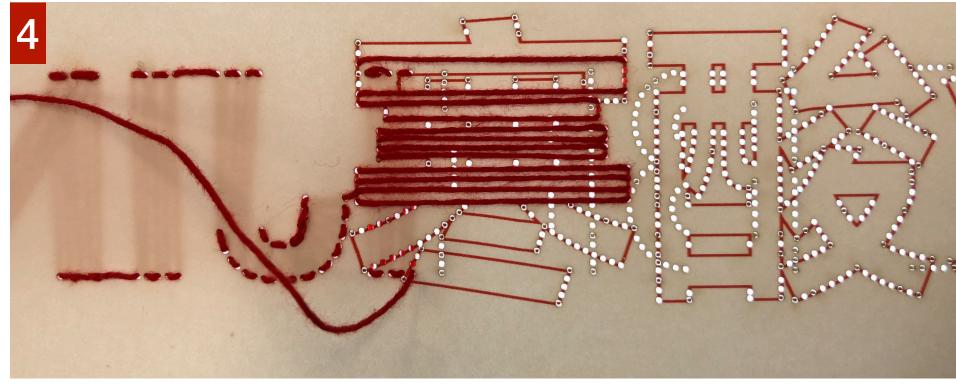
material strength/texture/personal preference: thick card > greyboard > plastic > tracing paper

## paper + stitching: sample sewing process









- 1. finish letter J
- 2. flip page over to work on character 寒 until the needle reaches near the top holes for letter I
- 3. flip page again to finish letter I
- 4. flip page to continue working on character 寒

**technical production - printing & laser cutting** 

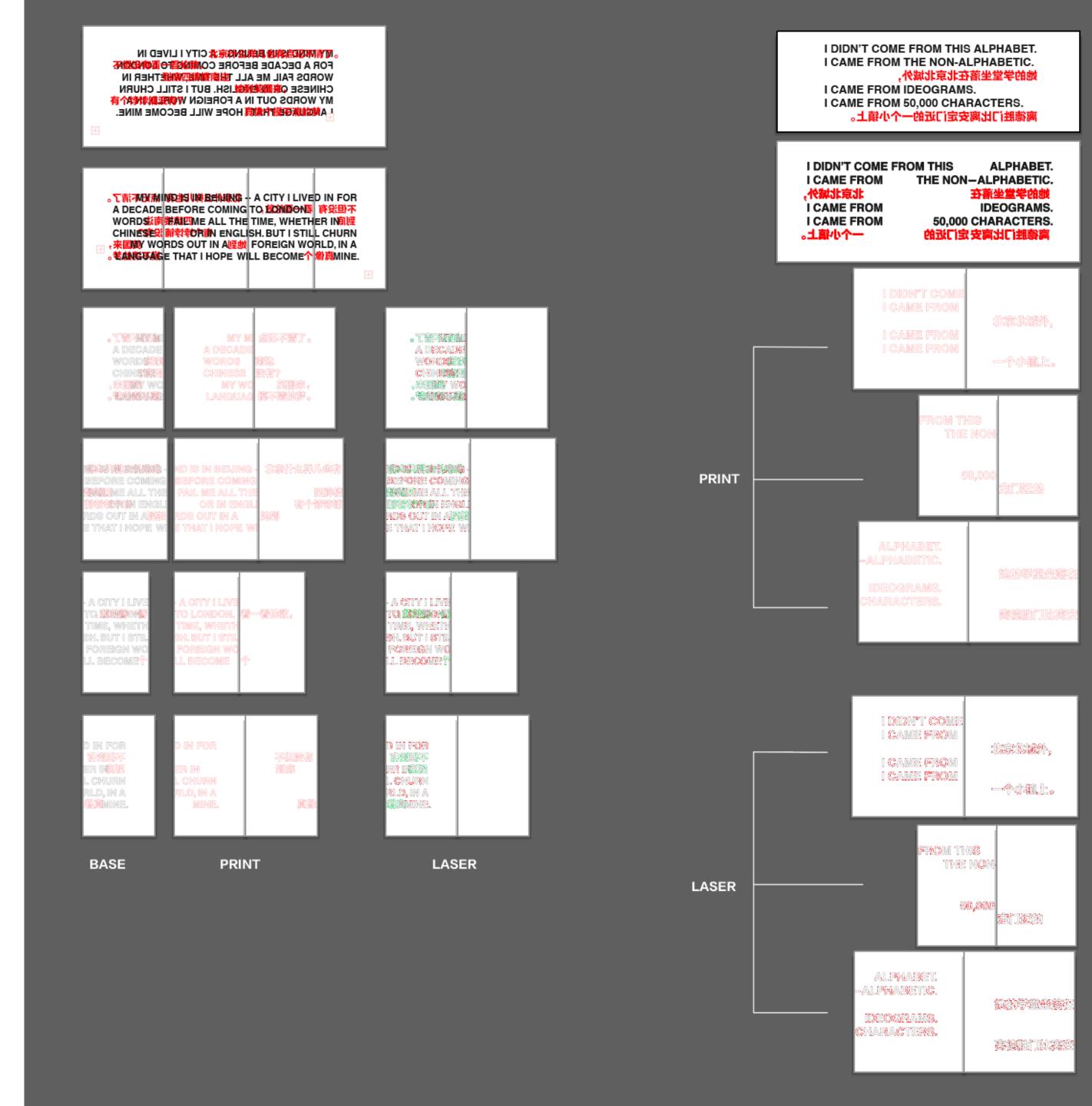
## file preparation workflow

in order to mimic effect of text on the back of the page:

draw guide 1/2 width of artboard select grouped text press O to pull up reflect panel alt click guide —> vertical reflect

- 1. block out text
- 2. separate into panels according to laser bed/printer constraints
- 3. make a copy in place
- 4. create outlines from type
- 5. set stroke to 2pt 0 dash 4.1 gap, align to corners
- 6. object —> expand stroke
- 7. delete extra dots by language
- 8. delete overlapping dots

150cm artboards & layout example: without double sided printing (left column), with double sided printing (right column).

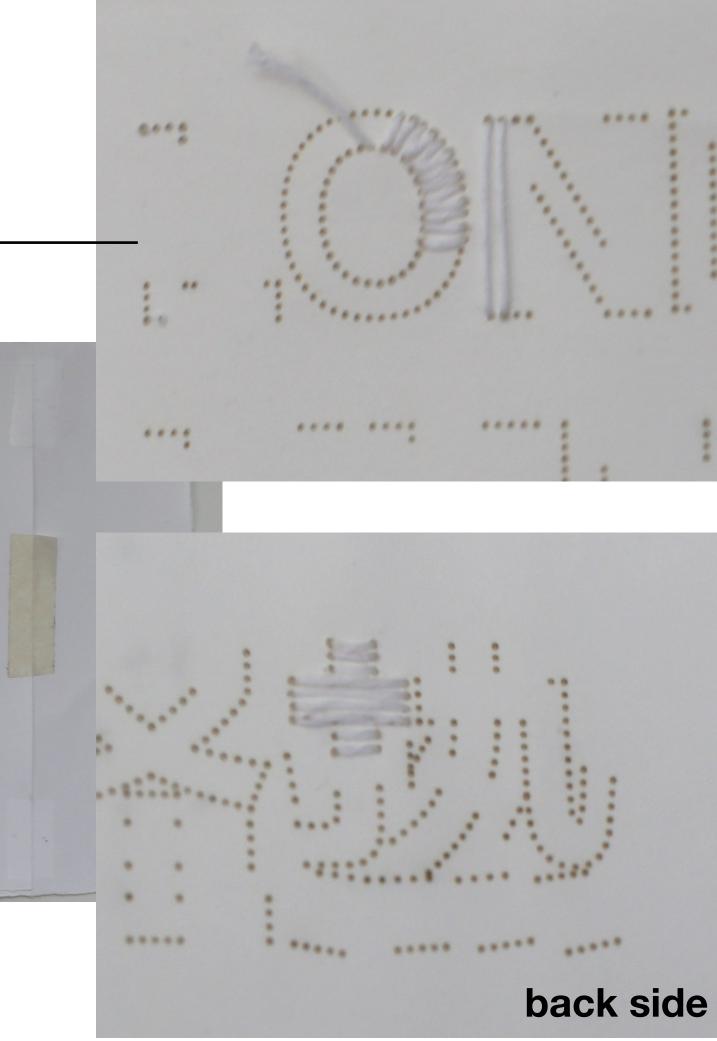


## laser cutting: the introduction

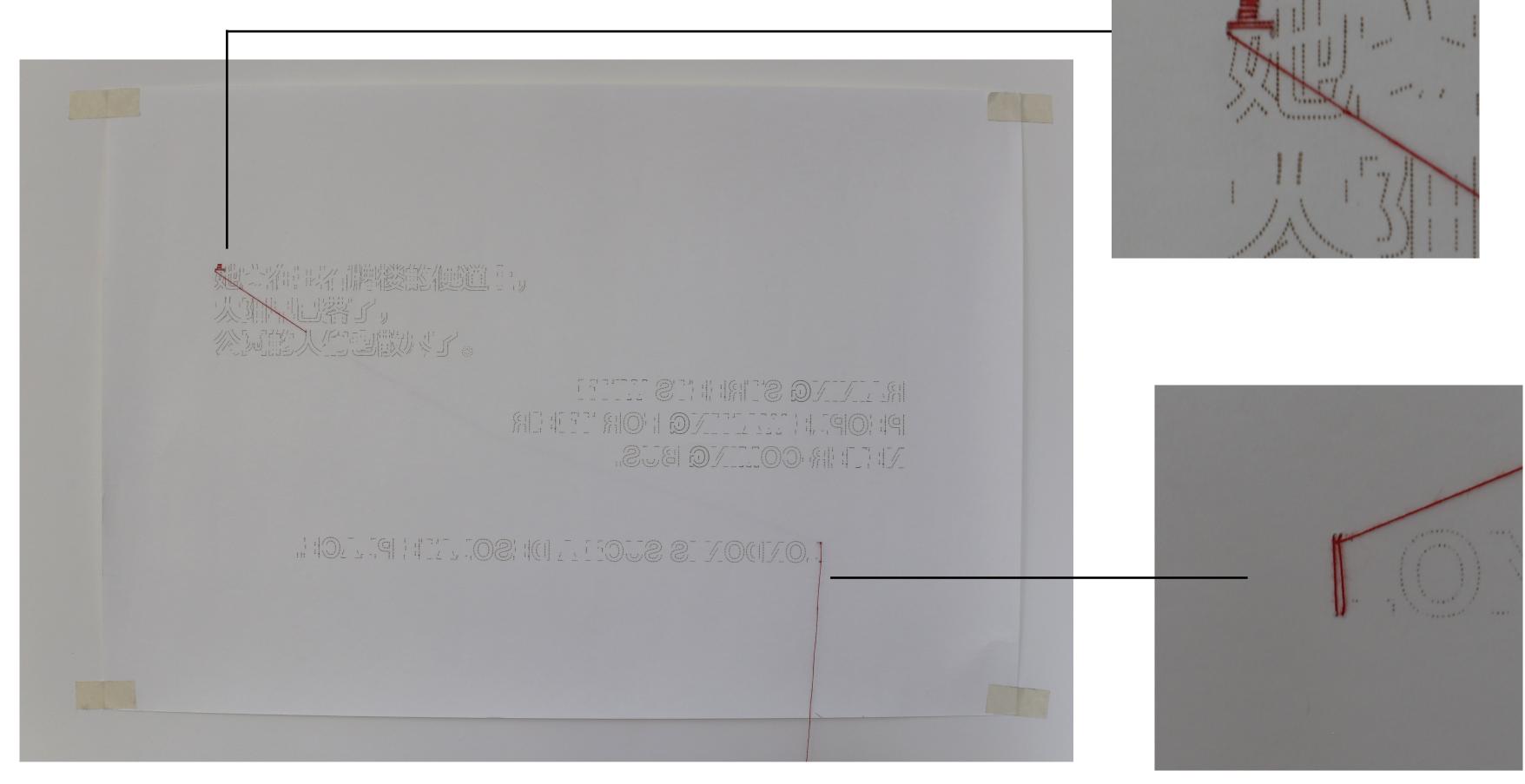


laser cut 0.35mm holes, two separate pieces of paper ~250gsm (paper is second hand so I can only estimate weight)

relatively successful in staying intact



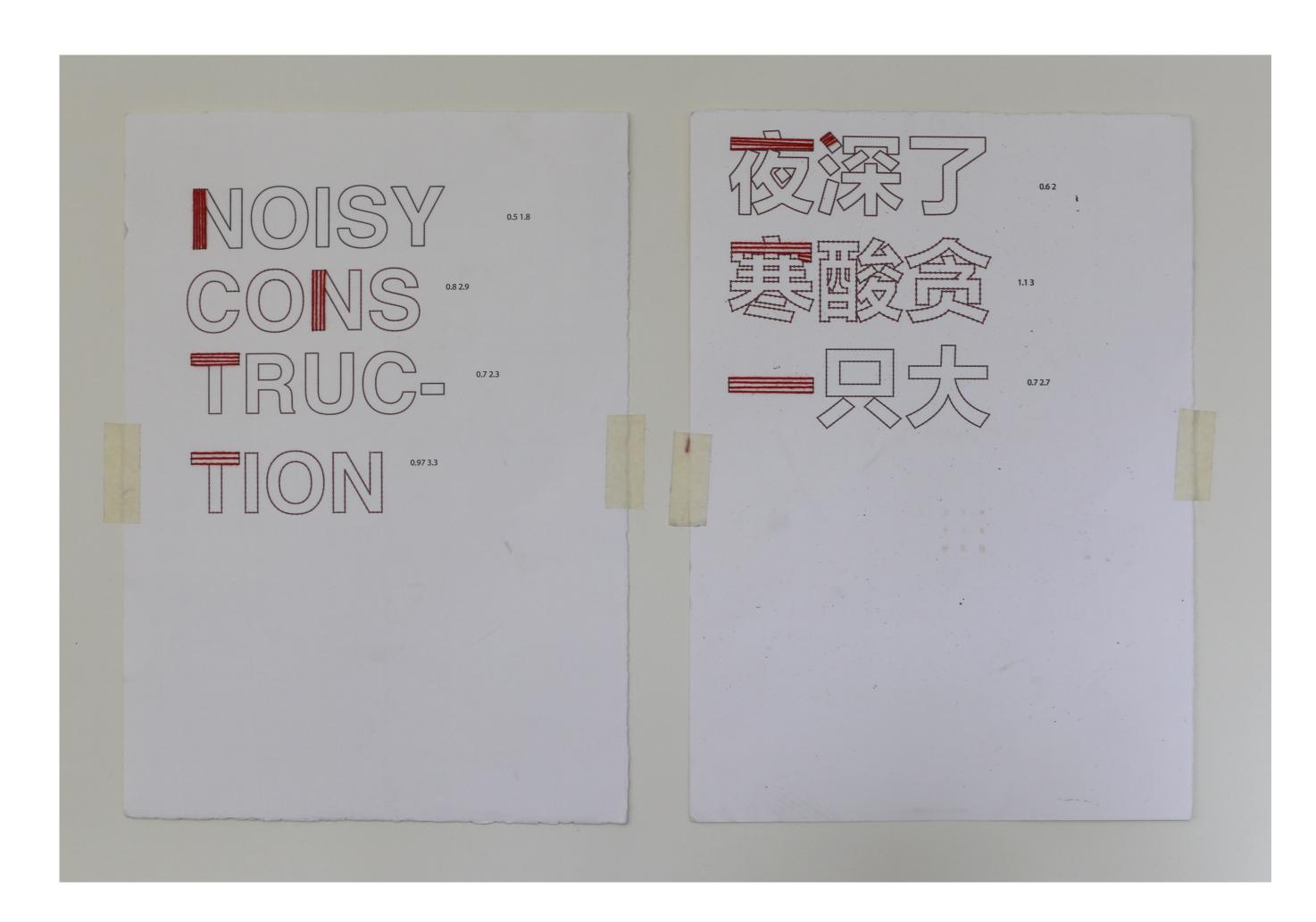
## laser cutting: the big problem



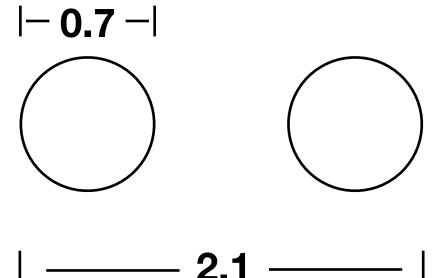
thought file was made with 0.35mm holes but somehow was not

laser cut 0.1mm holes, single sheet of ~250gsm paper complete and utter failure, holes way too small for needle and distance between holes too narrow for paper not to rip text also too small to read comfortably

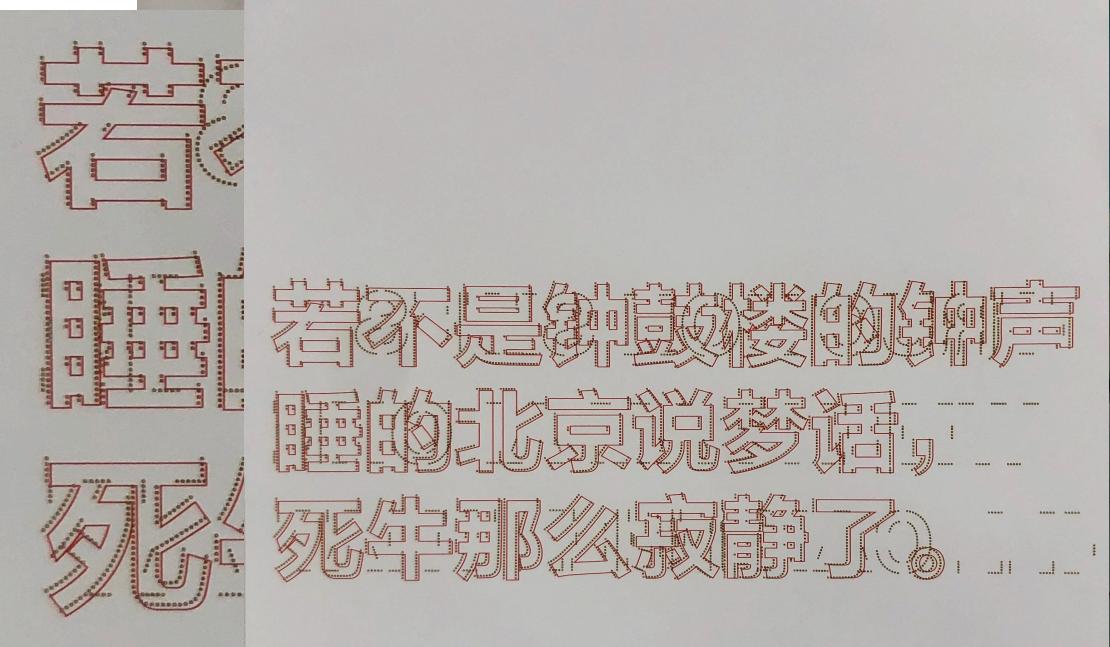
# paper + stitching: laser cutting the resolution



more testing on larger text, ~300gsm paper different hole size + distance combination chose 0.7mm hole, 2.1mm distance combination



# misalignment sadness



beautiful, textured, expensive, somerset velvet paper and misaligned laser dots reprinted and lasered this panel

image on right: more precise laser-text line up



## the double sided printing dilemma

at the RCA there is no double sided printing at that size.

college print shop: can't print double sided large format can print separately top colour/wallpaper and stick together

workaround: print one side + vinyl/tracing paper outline for the other side



bottom: traced with colour pencil

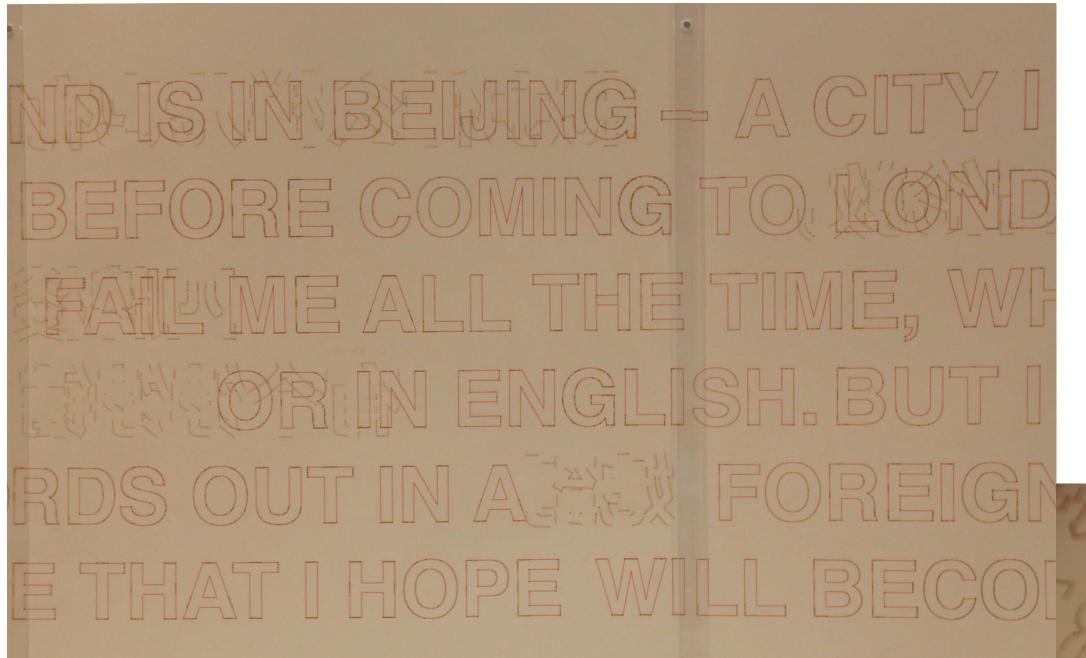
realizes both sides need to be printed for the participatory tables templates

college print shop: recommend outside vendor

 $\checkmark$  go to outside vendor #1 in london: can only print double sided up to 450mm x 320mm.

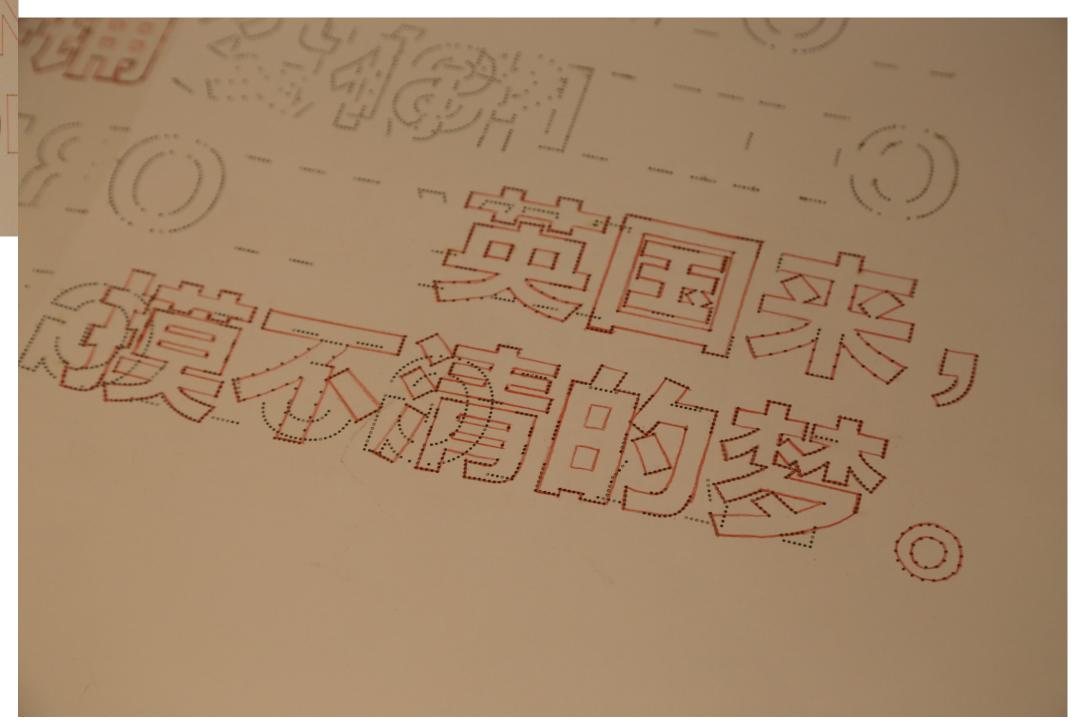
go to outside vendor #2 outside of london: will cost 195quid for seven panels around 600mm x 400mm of outlines





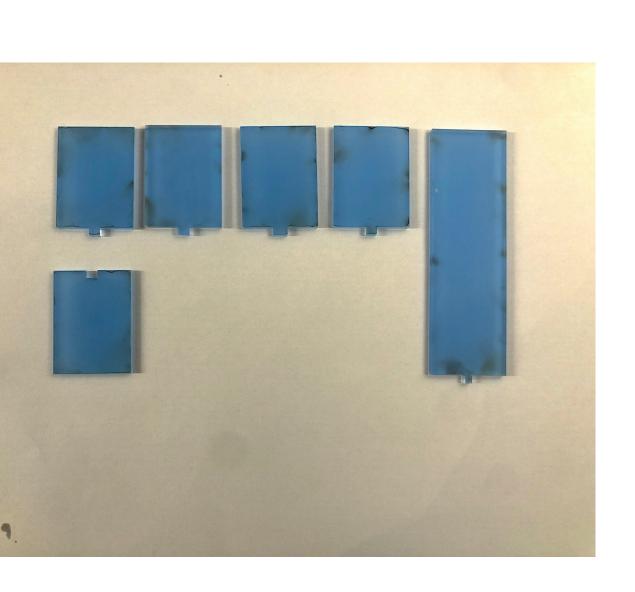
top: printed

bottom: traced with colour pencil



**technical production - frame** 

## frames

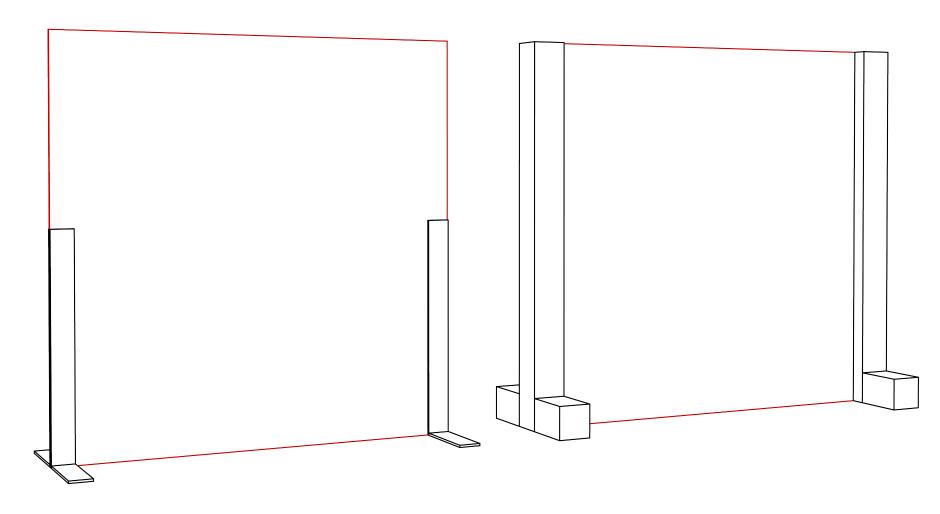




width of dip: 4mm
width of bit sticking out:
4.4mm
4.5mm
5mm
6mm
3mm



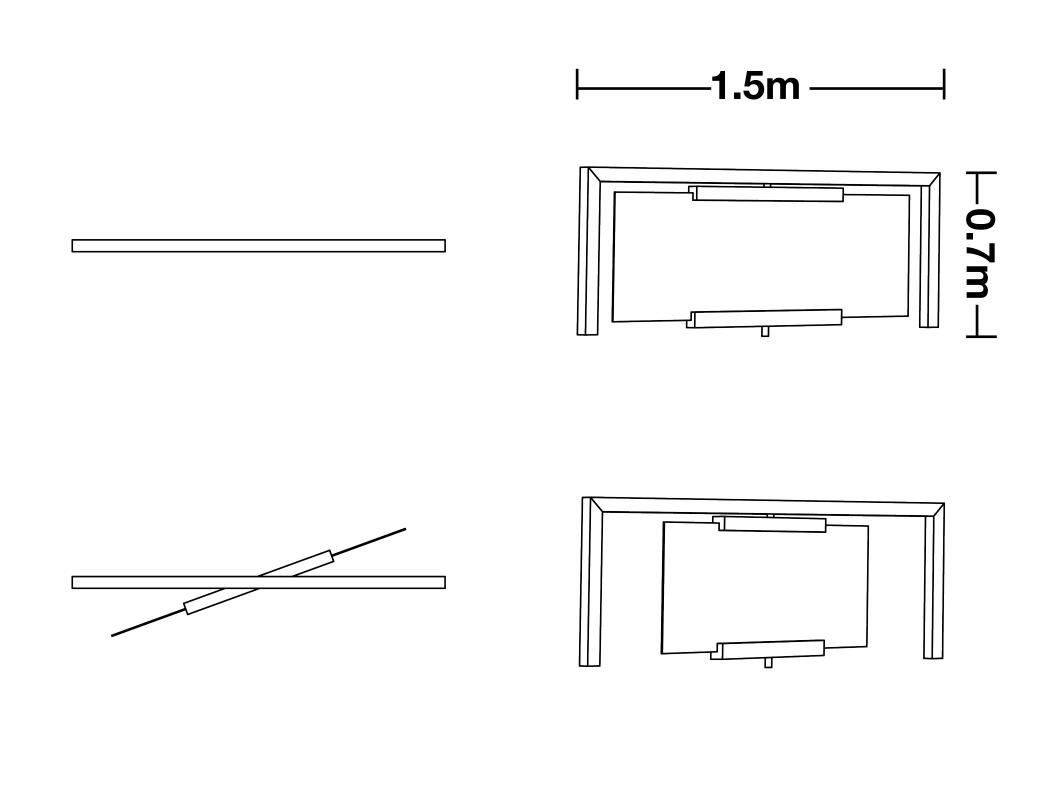




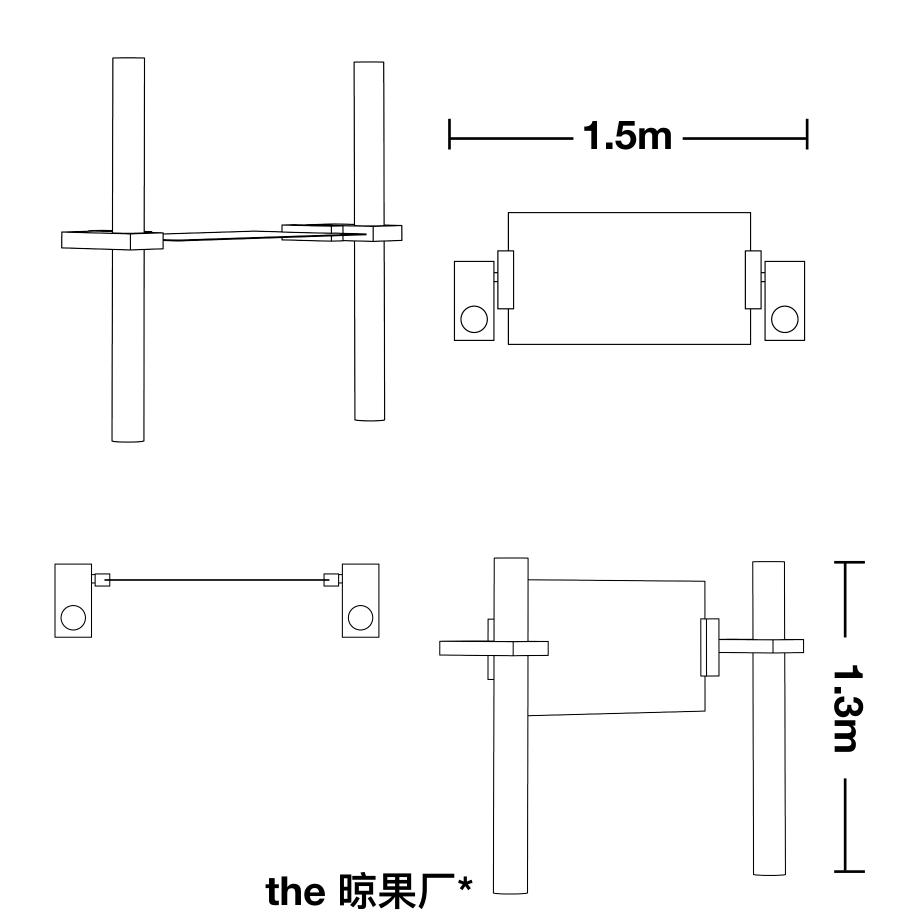


3mm acrylic: easy to cut, not so good at staying glued together ✓ 2 x 2 wood (right): good at staying together, but is a bit bulky leftover plywood (top): sheets are not flat enough

## unrealized frame dreams



the 公主坟\* gōng zhǔ fén, area in west Beijing, translation: princess tomb



liàng guǒ chẳng, residential community in west Beijing, translation: dry fruit factory

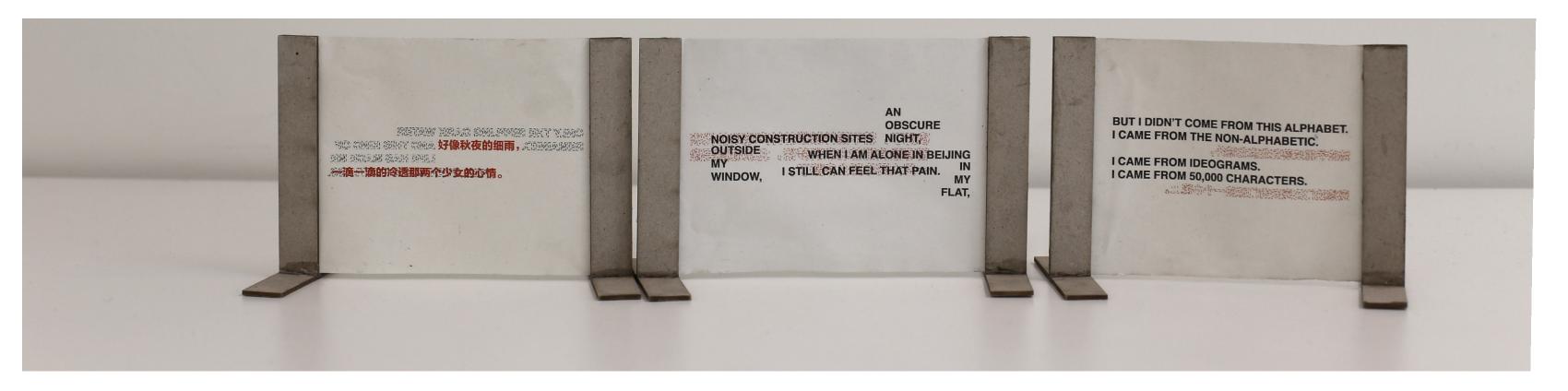
feedback

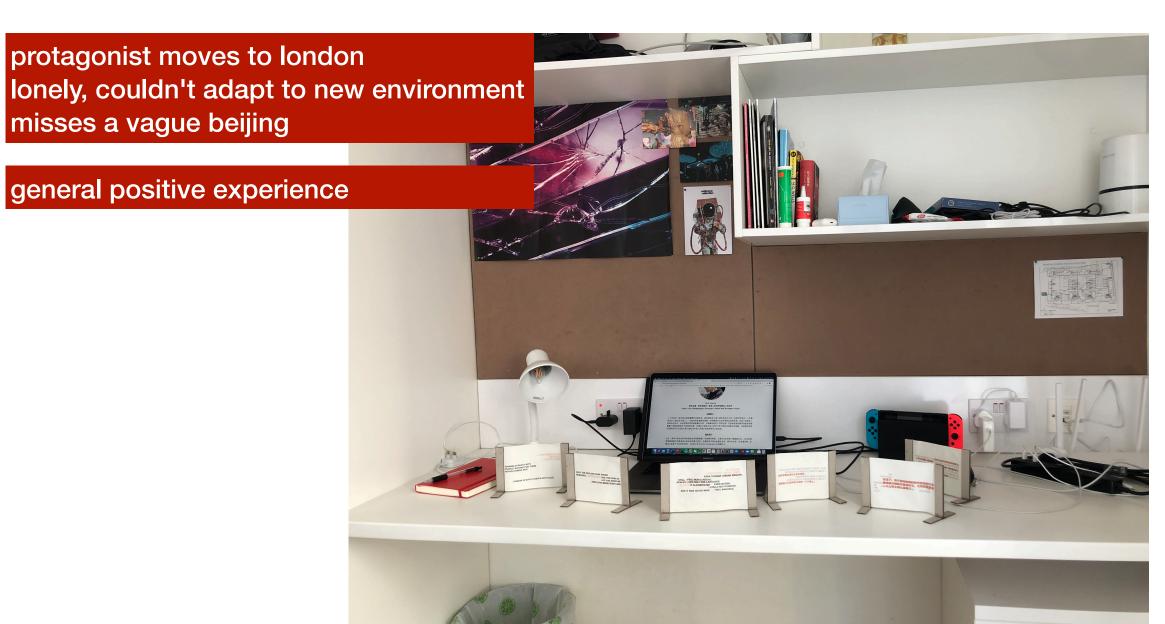
## people I talked to: audience

put out a message in 2nd hand buy & sell group chat asking if people were willing to let me go to their house & take a photo of their desk + my miniatures in exchange for milk tea

I asked them to read the material and tell me what they thought it was talking about (didn't tell them anything beforehand) and then usually we would have a conversation about their experience moving to London <— rather unplanned









like double exposure in film real/unreal, contradictory elements, the miniatures are like 影壁 (yǐng bì, spirit screen), blocking the girl from actually going home

had friends from home who also came to london, took language class before starting officially and made friends, london has good food, not a lot of stress adapting

### missing home

ordering at restaurants was hard, always had to think about what to say





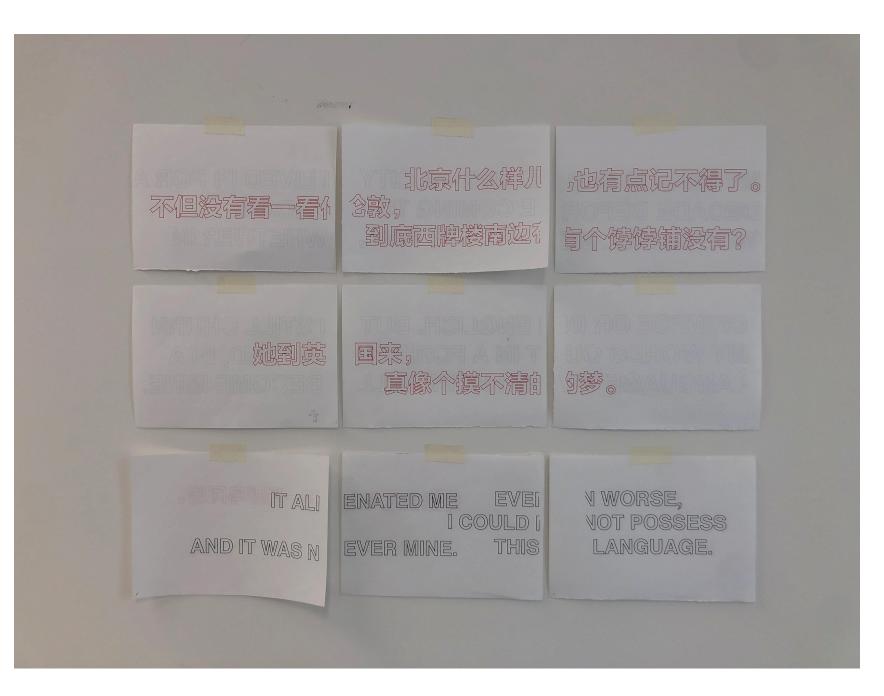
a girl moving from beijing to london lost,

why is she here? the place seems foreign to her

no emotional attachment to people and surroundings, but had attachment to cultural references: harry potter, 101 Dalmatians

(protagonists met in Regent's Park)

# participation





### materials

paper: <a href="#">✓</a>
double sided printing + laser cut

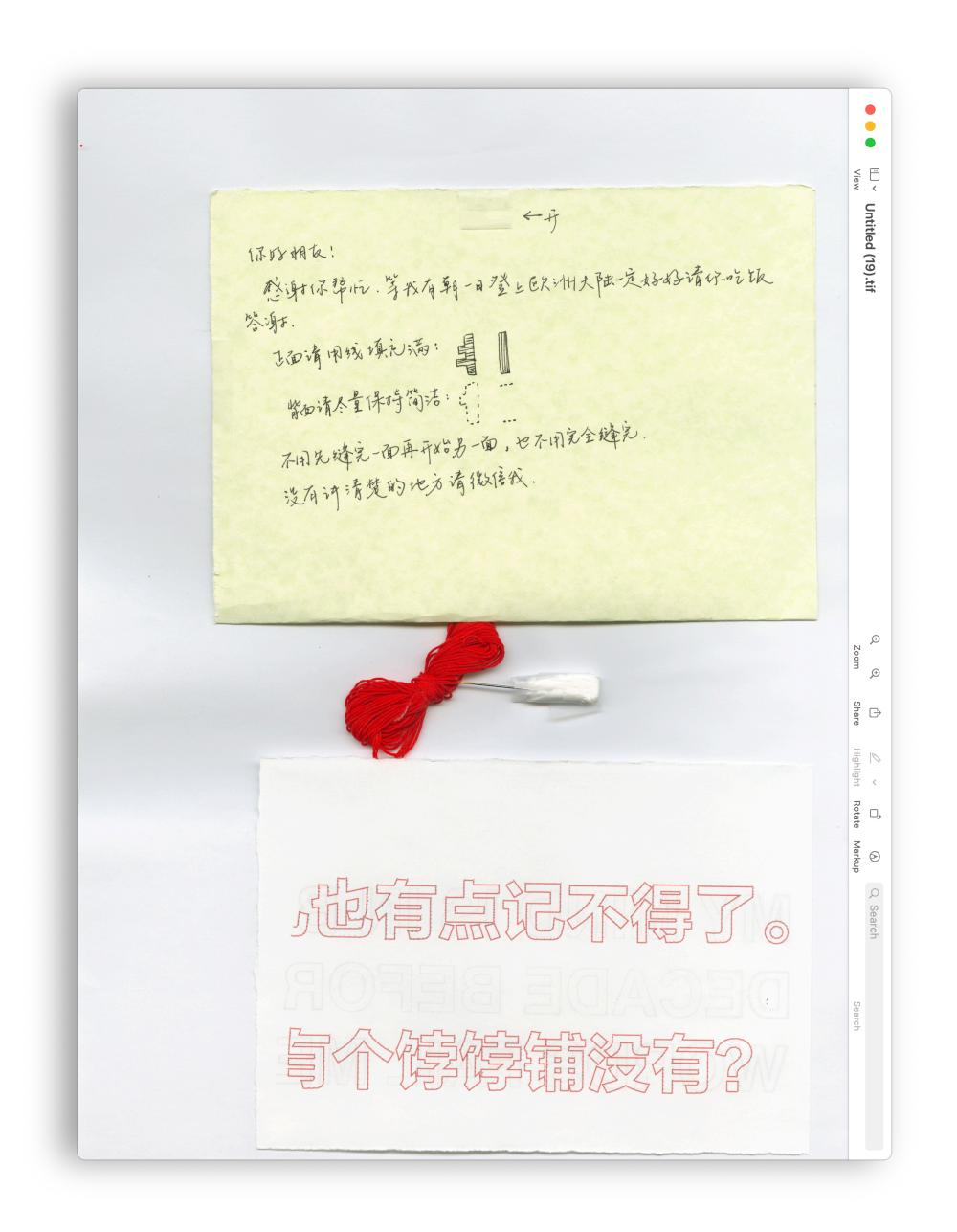
acrylic:

laser cut holes + engraved outline might be good for participation because material is sturdy, but cannot physically poke new holes

# participation: sample kit

### materials

paper with holes cut out needle + thread instructions



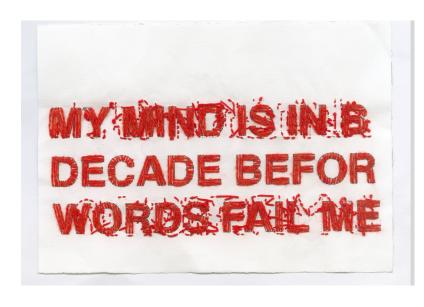
## participation: sample kit responses

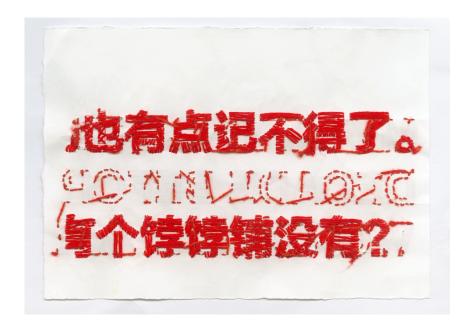
### participant #1

native chinese speaker, fluent in english living overseas









pre determined dots: a bit restrictive but helpful at times. followed dots but also chose to do whatever was easier. pain: (puncturing holes by hand) not so significant. threading needle through from back more difficult/accident prone. rips: a couple of places, but not anxiety inducing - easy fixes material: acrylic - weighty. holes would be too restrictive. thread: need more.

while doing: over a couple of nights after dinner watching tv shows. meditative. don't need to think but also needed complete focus. it's an interesting mode to be in.

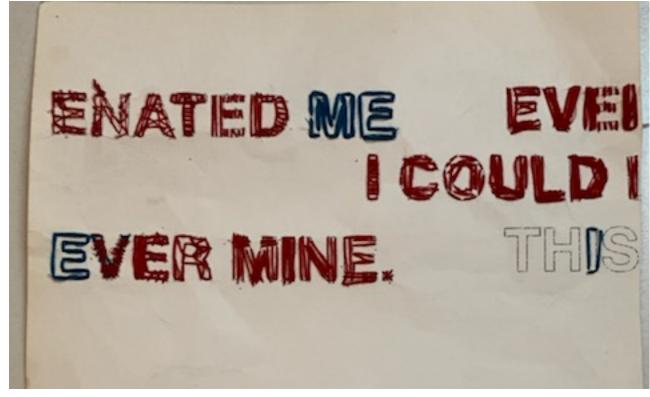
talked about **process in phases** -in the beginning --> towards the end, finds what is comfortable/habitual for them takes a bit of time.

wasn't clear in the beginning - instructions

### participant #2

english as second language, conversational in chinese living in home country





pre determined dots: would have helped

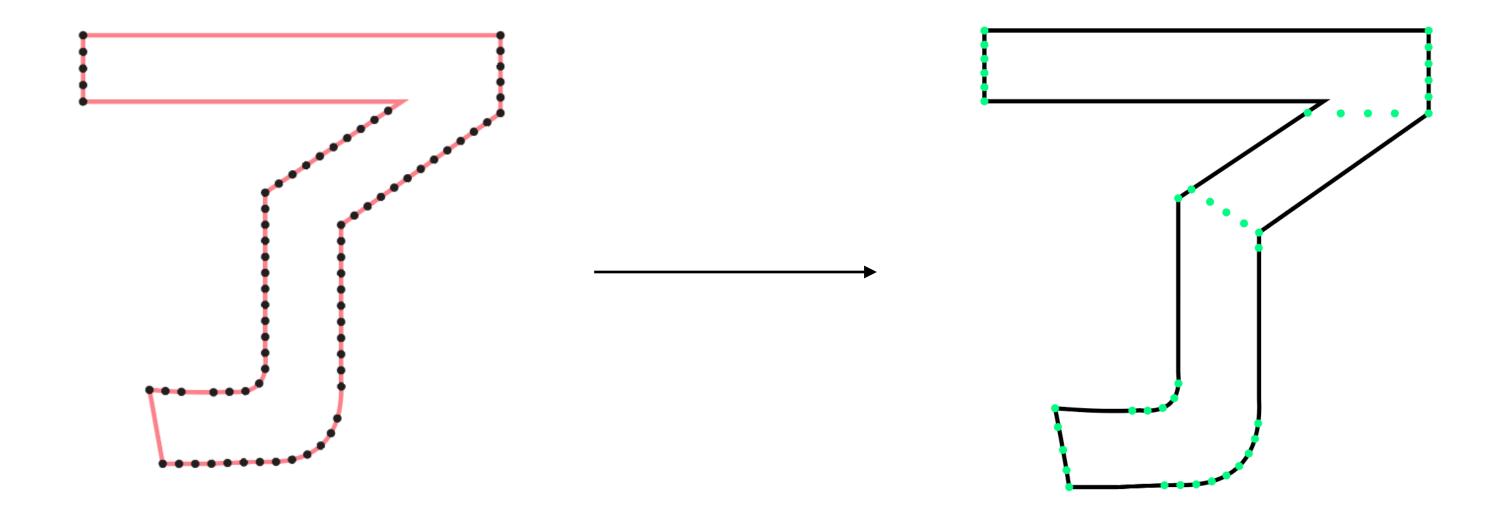
accidental stabs in hand from pushing needle through paper

rips in paper: thought was easy to fix

while doing: lying down, holding it up to the light, listened to whatever other people in the house played process: the first three: what am i doing?? —> push through —> developed tactic for letters —> therapeutic; enjoyed it, and sister saw, was interested, and did it too (blue lines)

didn't know what to do with curvy letters like "O" double sided printing logistic is hard —> don't let people do it themselves

## participation: example response to sample kit responses



laser cutting template for my own sewing

laser cutting template for participant sewing