

Methods of Iterating Written Response 1

I replicated Pati Hill's "Alphabet of Common Objects" to explore xerox art and scanography. Unable to access Hill's original objects as they belonged to the artist's personal inventory and were specific to the 1960s context in which they were produced, I selected the scissor, glove, and sock prints as references and recreated them using contemporary replacements.

The process involved styling objects, adjusting printer settings, and controlling output size. I worked extensively with different combinations of image adjustments to replicate the visual effects from the original prints, but struggled to capture the exact graininess and light-dark contrast.

Beyond the material differences in my objects—its colour, shape, malleability, and dimensions—this process made me reflect on the fundamental differences between the tools themselves. Contemporary printers have partly overcome the problem of producing patchy backgrounds when scanning uneven objects by allowing complete background cleanup. To reintroduce this machine limitation, I had to manually lift the scanning lid to produce the gradient effect seen in Hill's prints. This became an interdisciplinary practice involving both analogue and digital methods to intervene in the machine's interpretation process.

Extending this idea, it would be interesting to explore the printer's interpretive decisions by introducing deliberate errors or obstacles. Methods could include scanning reflective or transparent materials to disrupt the light sensors, or experimenting with external light sources, or applying translucent covers to create different exposure conditions. These approaches would reveal how the scanner mediates and translates material reality and push the exploration toward a systematic investigation of the tool's capabilities and limitations.