

Making Sally's Sandwiches

I am an Artist and Illustrator who is as interested in the way things feel as the way they look. I see children's books as a brilliantly accessible, interactive and unpretentious art form.

This is my website:
www.sallyhancox.co.uk

and my flickr account:
www.flickr.com/sillyhancox

I studied Illustration at the University of Brighton.
At university I used knitting, felting, crochet, collage, printmaking and made 3D paper models. I took classes in weaving and bookbinding. Today I continue these methods in my practice.

I also work at the St Dunstan's Craft Workshop.
(<http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk>)

At St Dunstan's I help visually impaired people with their arts and crafts projects. This work has helped me to consider what is important when a visually impaired person feels something; for instance, not having too much information too close together, and being systematic, linear, in order.

My book - "Sally's Sandwiches" is based on a simple idea: a sort of horrible menu of insect infested sandwiches.

I wanted it to be compact, and real scale - so that the size and shape of one page is the same as a slice of bread, and the whole book feels like a big sandwich. If the imagery is real scale it takes out a whole level of thinking, you are already converting 3d to 2d(ish); to have varying scales could confuse things further. The book is made of thick cardboard, with a hand sewn fabric spine attached to the card with a hot glue gun.

It was a challenge to find the right fabrics and textures for each page. Stretchy white PVC worked well for the hard boiled egg, but it was a shame that my plans for the jam to feel 'wet' never really worked, so I settled for something a bit fluffy in the end, the idea being that it is still soft. My favourite page is 'ham and ants' because the glass bead ants feel sinister.

I had thought of having more text in the book; more 'would you rather...' style questions, and other talking points, like counting how many bugs are on each page, but I decided to leave it up to the readers.

The best advice I can give to a sighted maker is to close your eyes and feel if it works.