

**RE: MONU-
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A
CRUCIBLE
FOR RE-
CASTING
MONU-
MENTS**

A.C. and J.M., UNLV MFA 2022, Printed Nov 2020

Based on the Monumental Bronze Co's 1882 catalogue, entitled "White Bronze Monuments, Statuary, Portrait Medallions, Busts, Statues, and Ornamental Art Work: For Cemeteries, Public and Private Grounds and Buildings," this zine suggests strategies to undo and reverse the propagation of these cheap, "customizable" cookie-cutter monuments that sprang up more than fifty years after the Civil War in the early 1900s as part of "reconciliation" between the North and South, as well as the imposition of Jim Crow laws. These statues sought to reframe the story of the war, using cheaply constructed, sand-blasted cast zinc marketed as "White Bronze," which would "last as long as the Pyramids of Egypt."

Here we are borrowing their concept of various designs, "the parts of which [can] also be easily interchanged," however this is not a catalogue to be dispersed across the country; this zine is designed with local people in mind, so that they may pick and choose the values of their monuments as it pertains to their community. Book spines are blank, so that their titles may be filled in with local heroes, important texts, or forgotten words that still ring true. There is an absence of people or persons, to emphasize the exit of an anthropocentric perspective and a move towards valuing collaboration with each other and the landscape. There are even loose fragments from those used to build these suggested proposals, so that others may create their own outside of what is offered here.

Specifically to Las Vegas, we consider the unsung heroes, the forgotten or buried histories, and the foundations of the city: immigration; federal projects; Helldorado Days; sex work; gay and civil rights; importation of palm trees, water, and flamingos. What sort of future do you imagine for Las Vegas? What values are espoused and imbued in the fabric of its future society? Is there conscious recognition of the occupation of Indigenous land? How is climate change considered with an imported oasis in the desert with concerns of rising temperatures and water access?

This zine is a point of departure from traditional monuments. It serves as a source of inspiration and proposals for consideration, critical examination, and distilling our shared values. We are putting the tools for change in the hands of the community so that they can plan for a future we all helped build—is it one we can all be proud of?

Works Cited

Gaiimo, Cara. "Those Mass-Produced Civil War Statues Were Meant to Stand Forever." *Atlas Obscura*, August 25, 2017.

Monumental Bronze Co. "White Bronze Monuments, Statuary, Portrait Medallions, Busts, Statues, and Ornamental Art Work: For Cemeteries, Public and Private Grounds and Buildings." October, 1882. Accessed on October 6, 2020, from [Archive.org](https://archive.org).



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Fig. 3

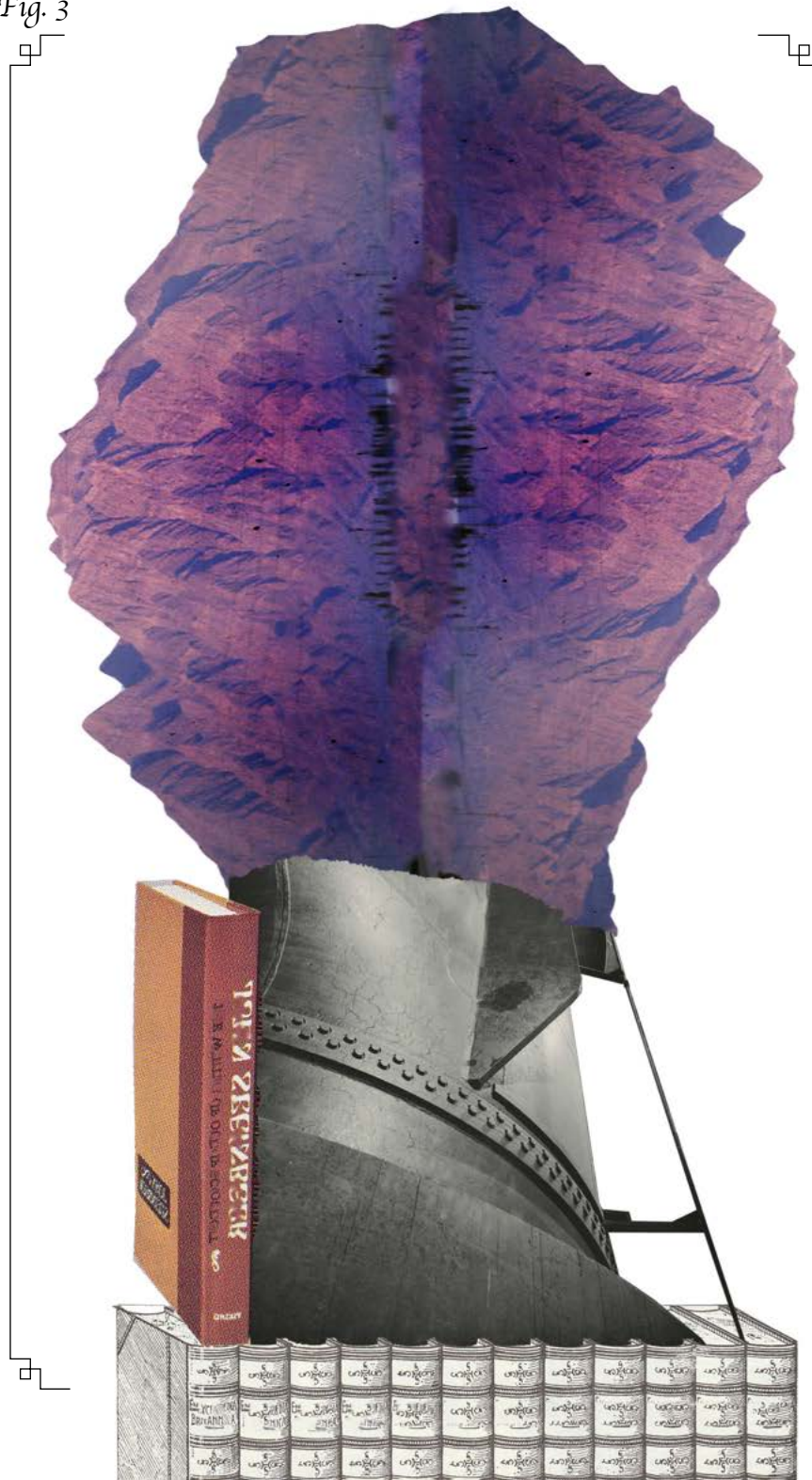




Fig. 4

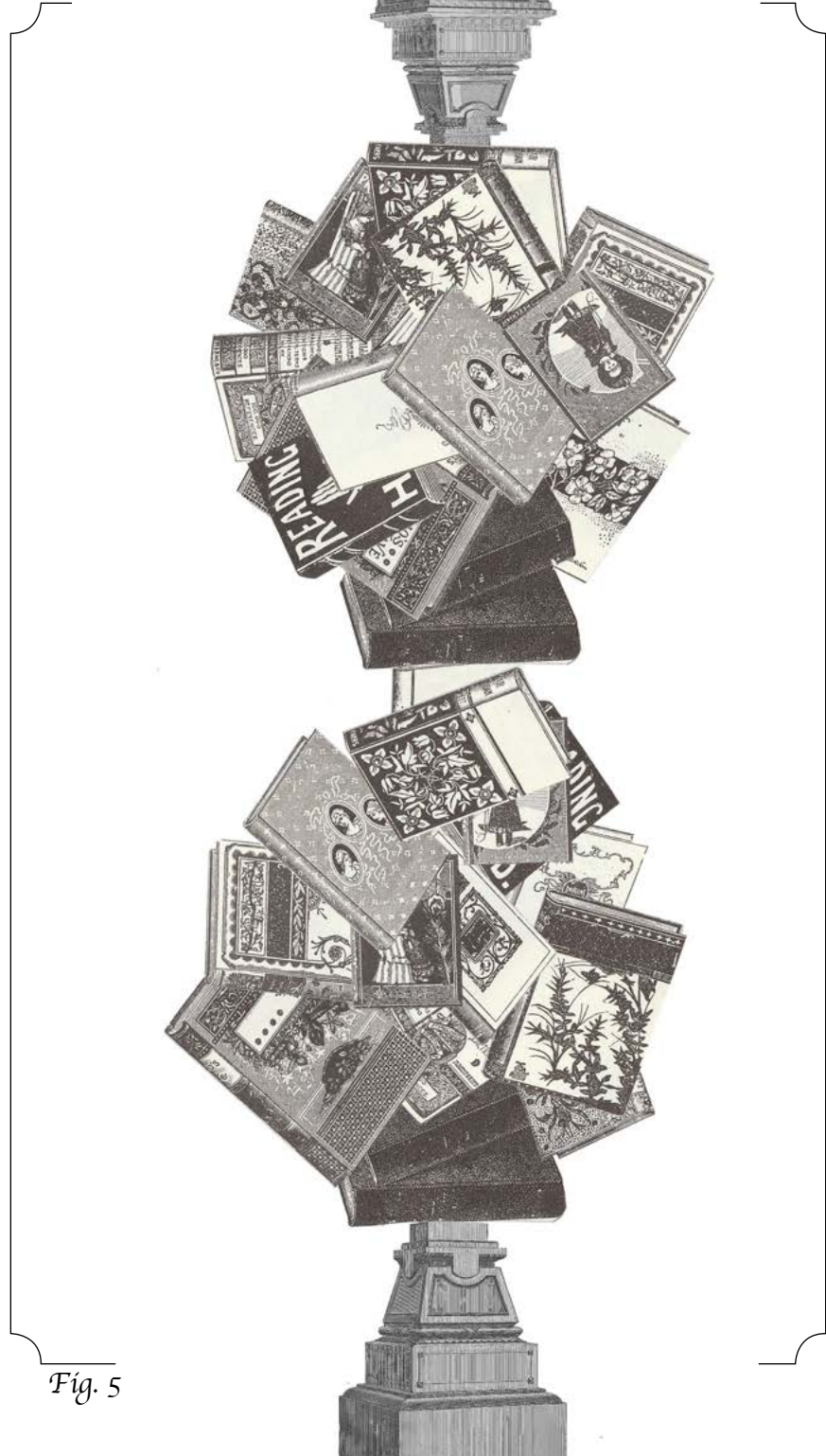


Fig. 5

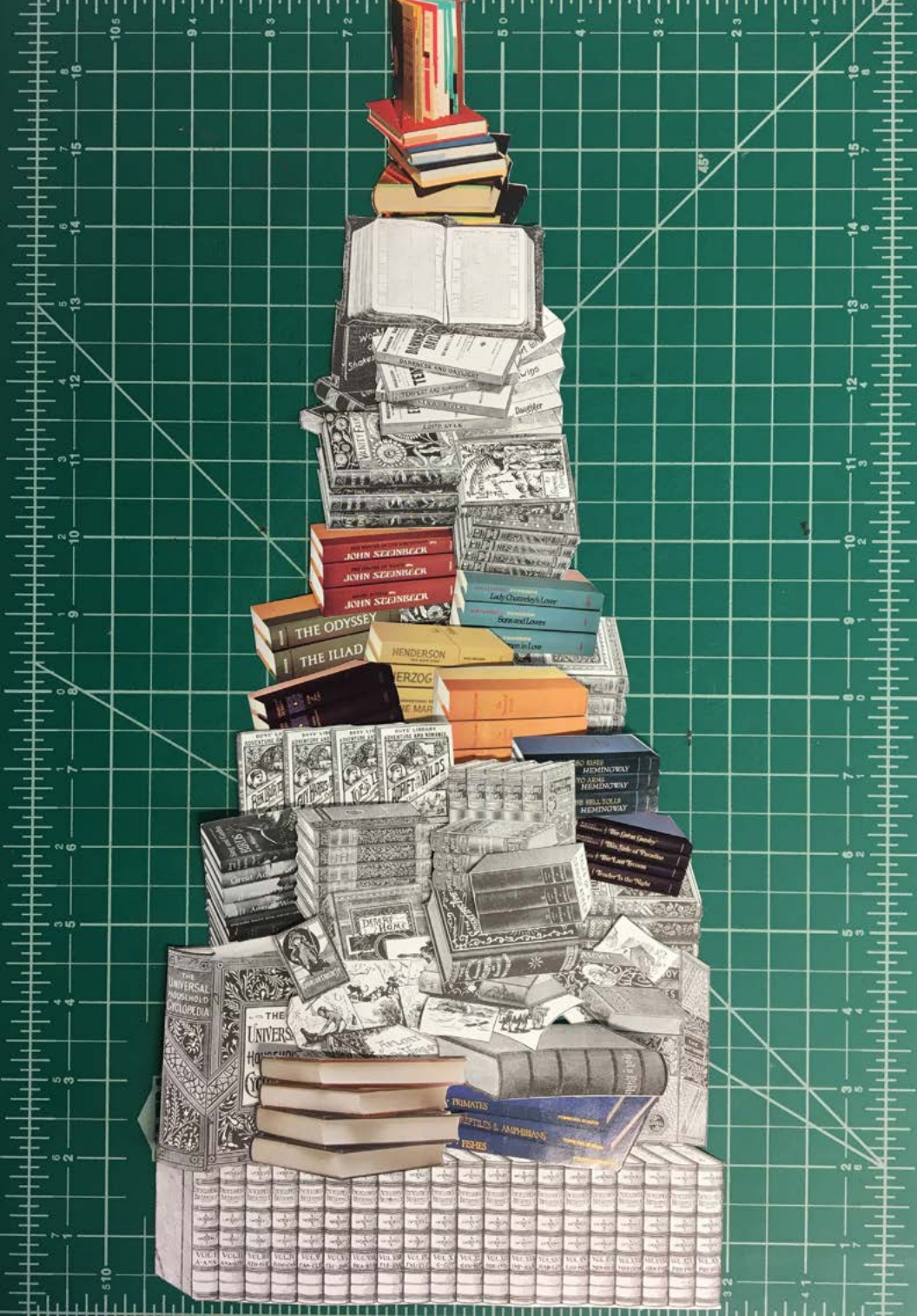


Fig. 6

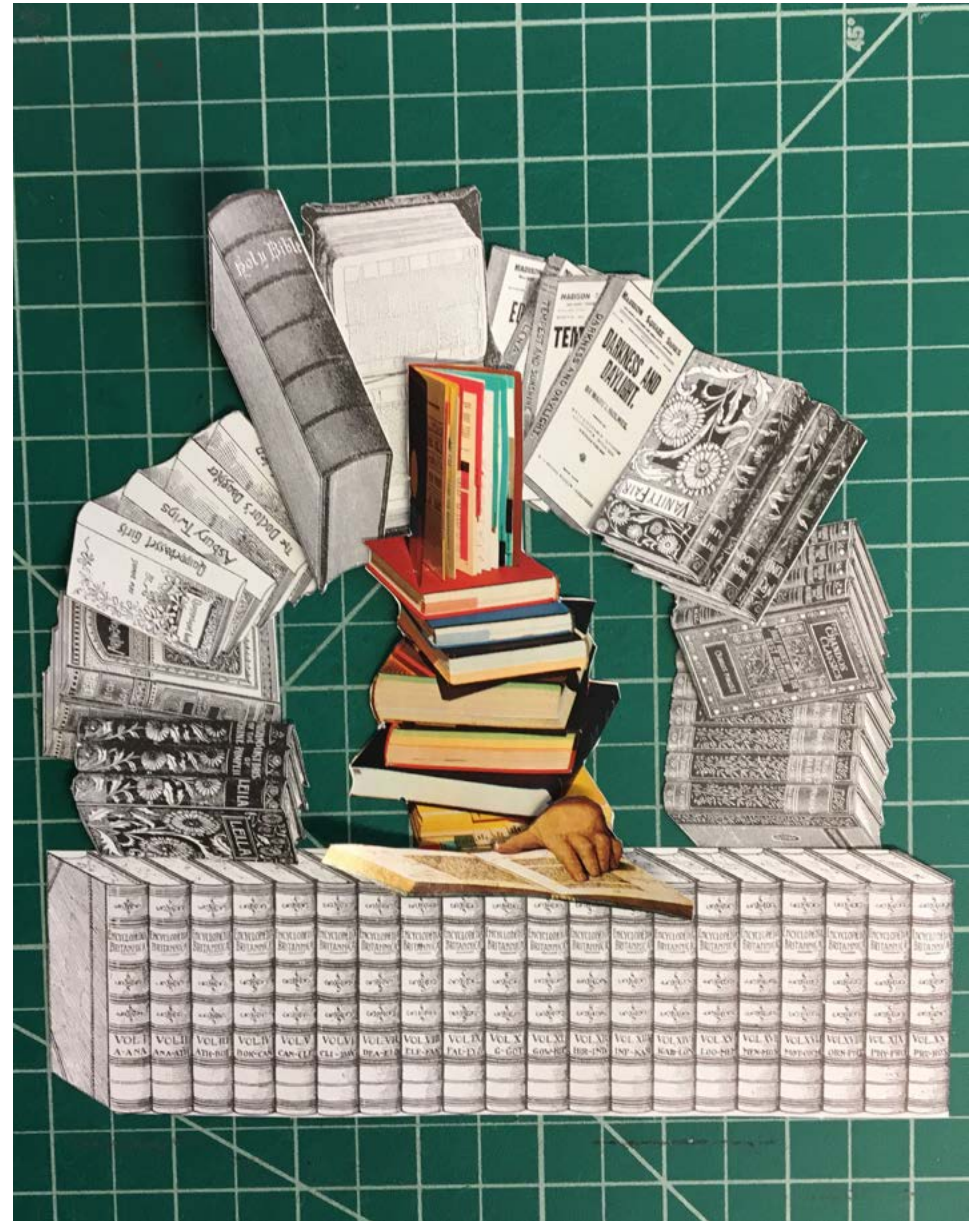
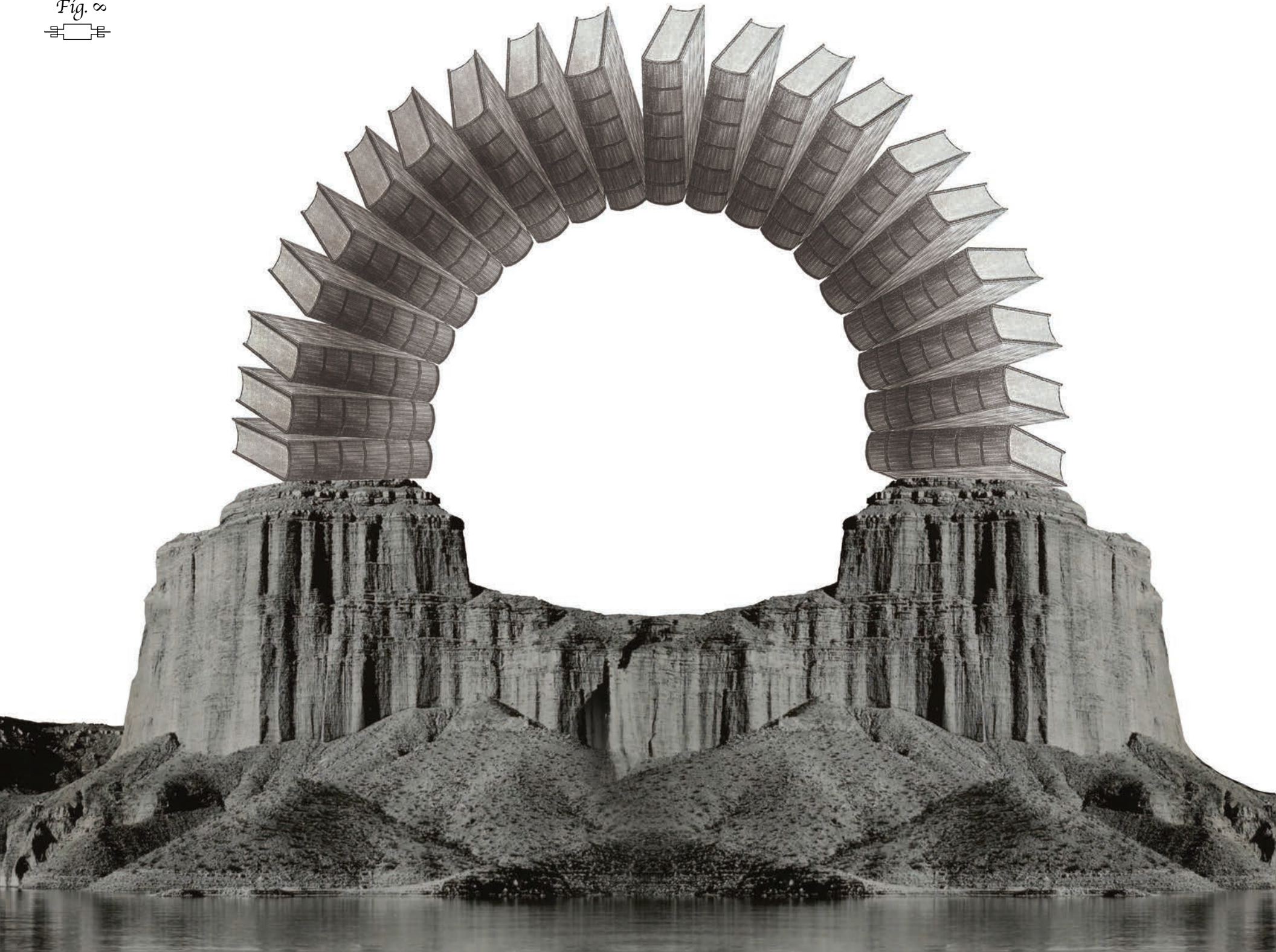


Fig. 7

Fig. ∞



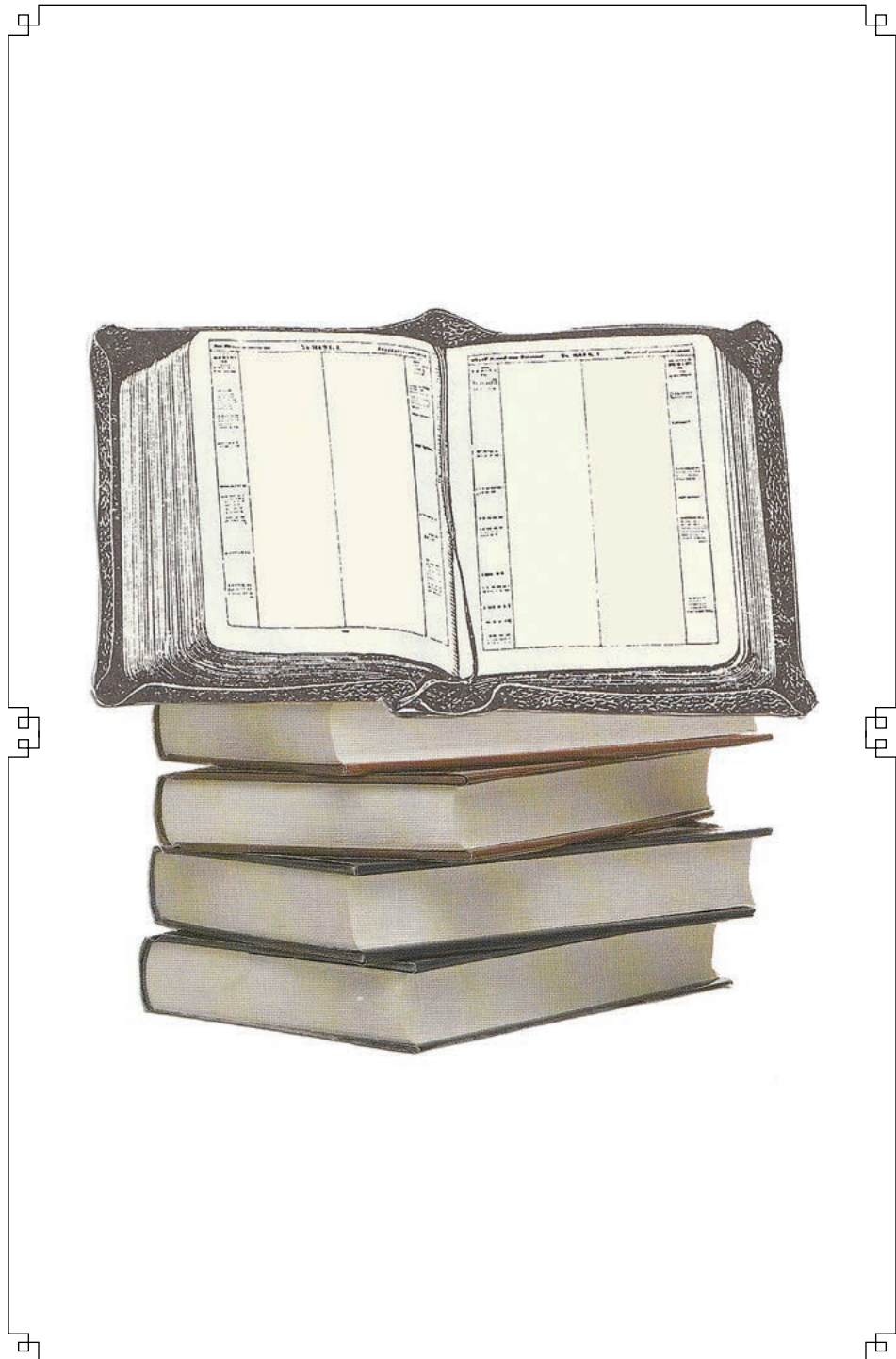
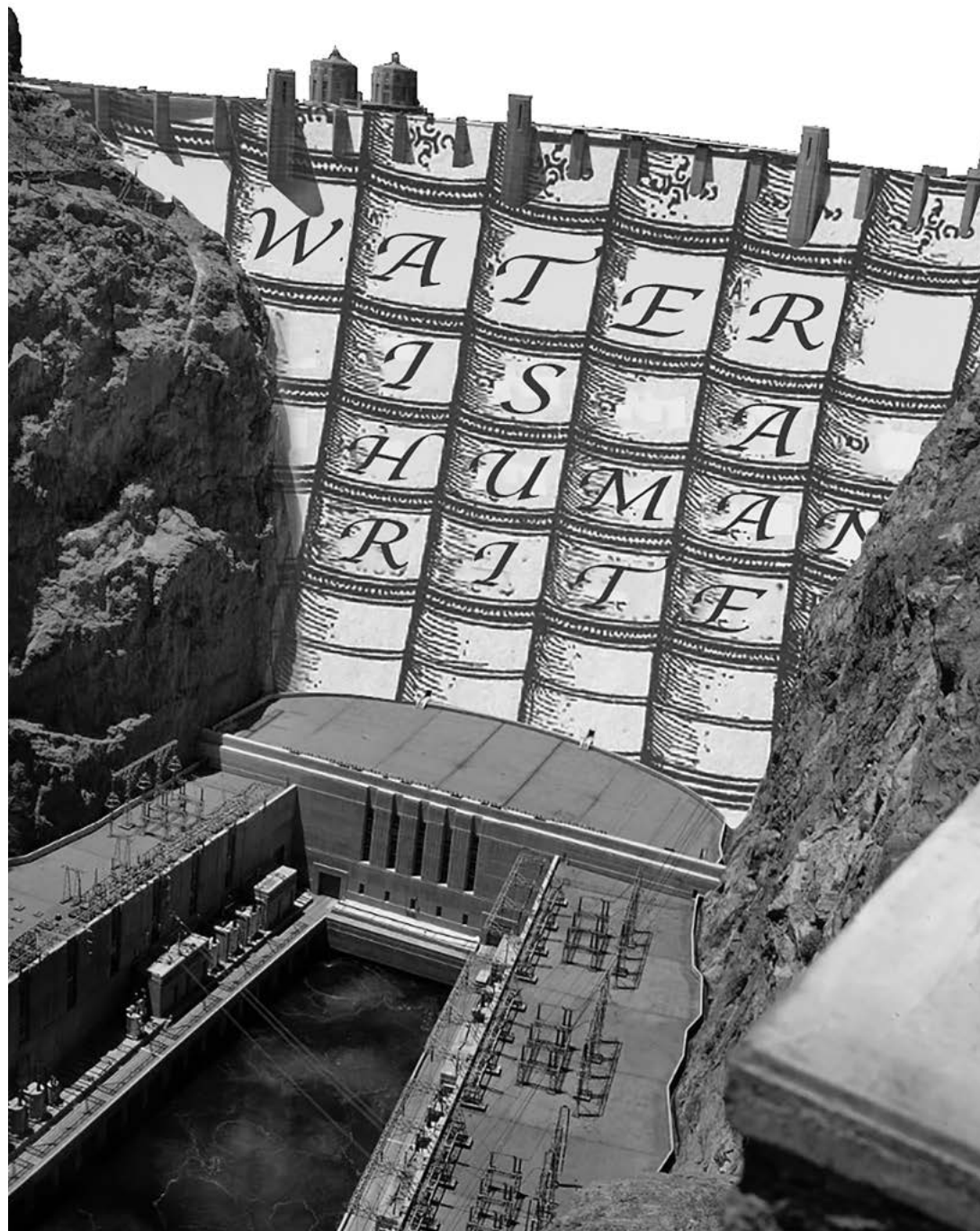


Fig. 9

Fig. 10



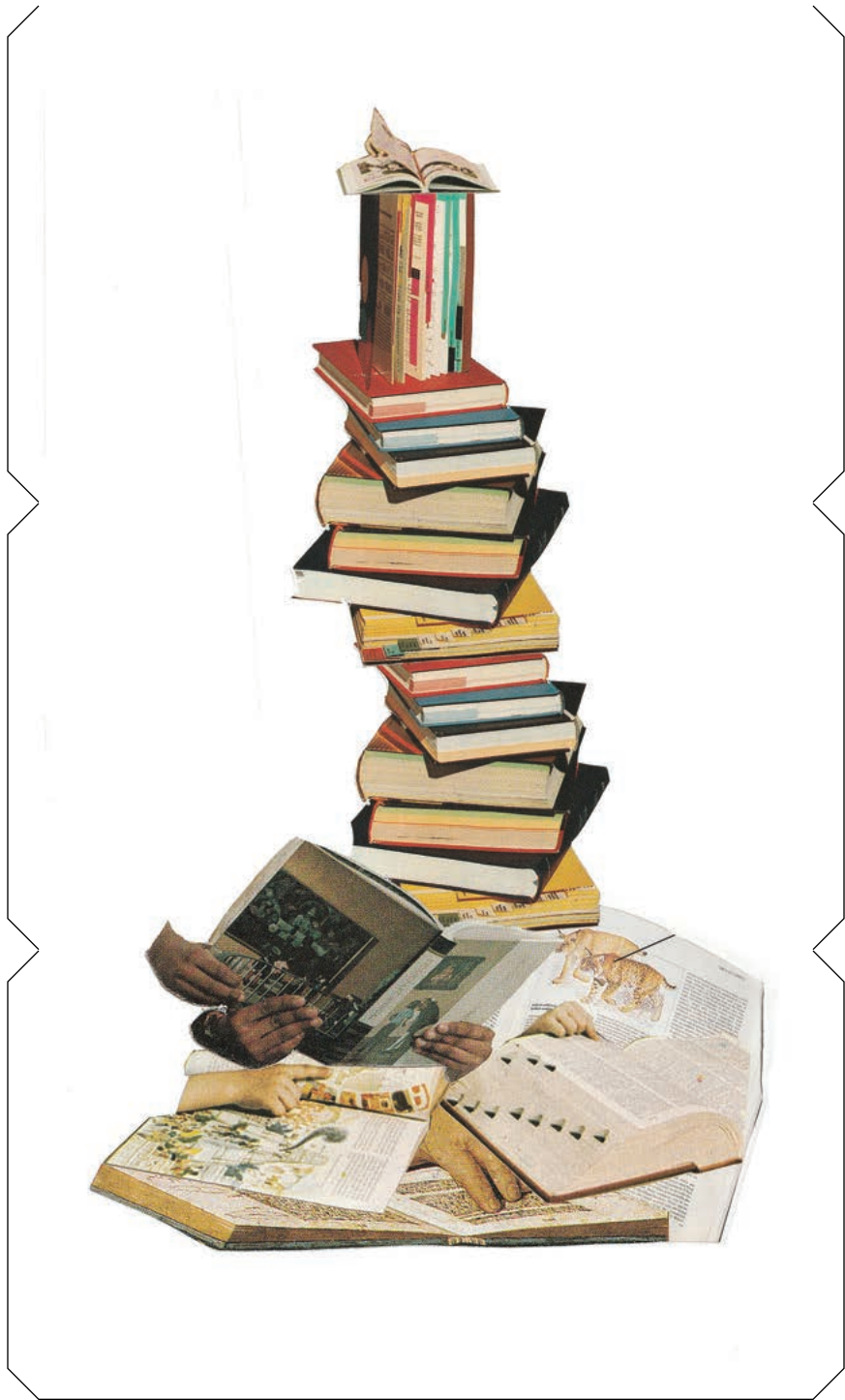
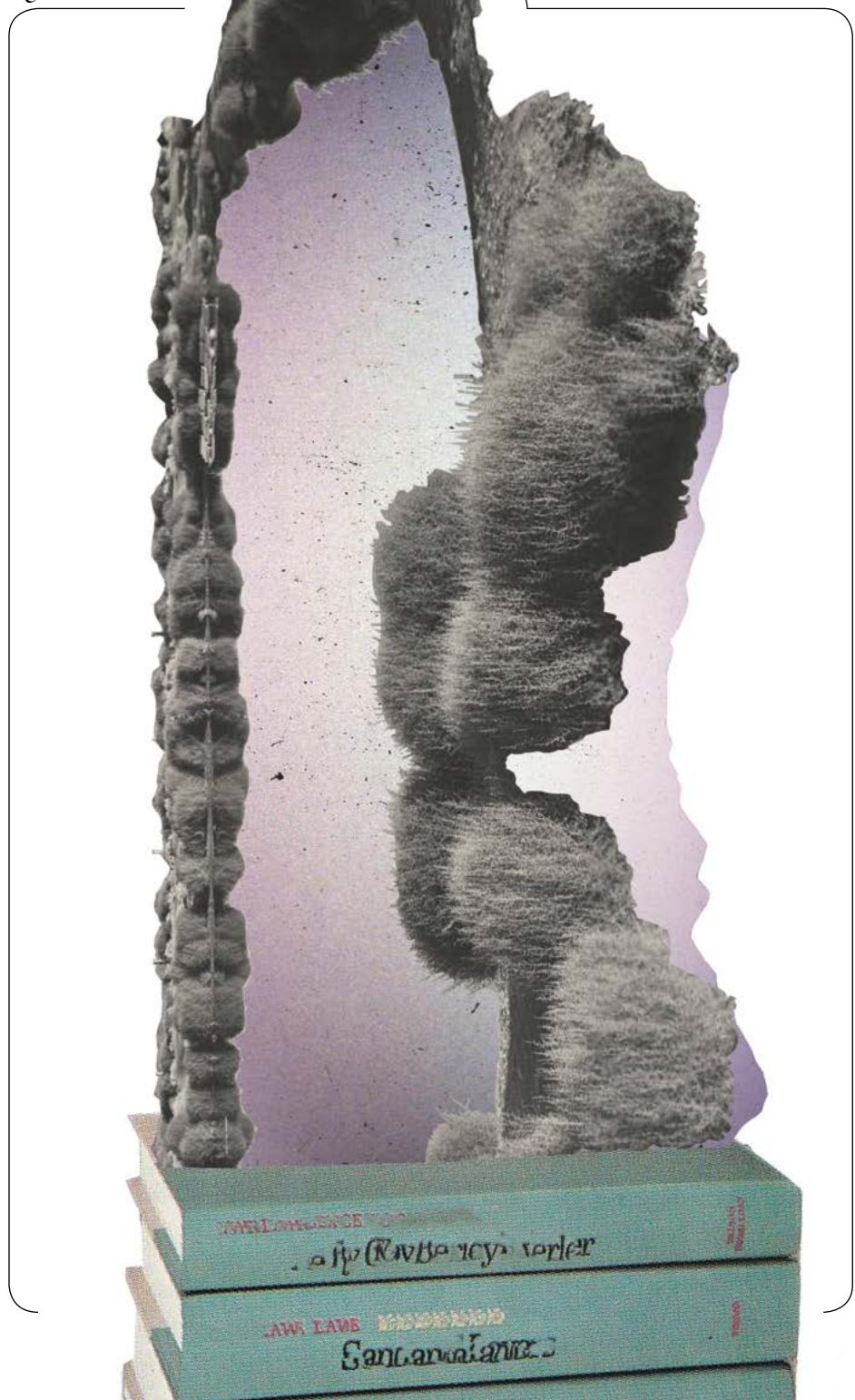


Fig. 11

Fig. 12



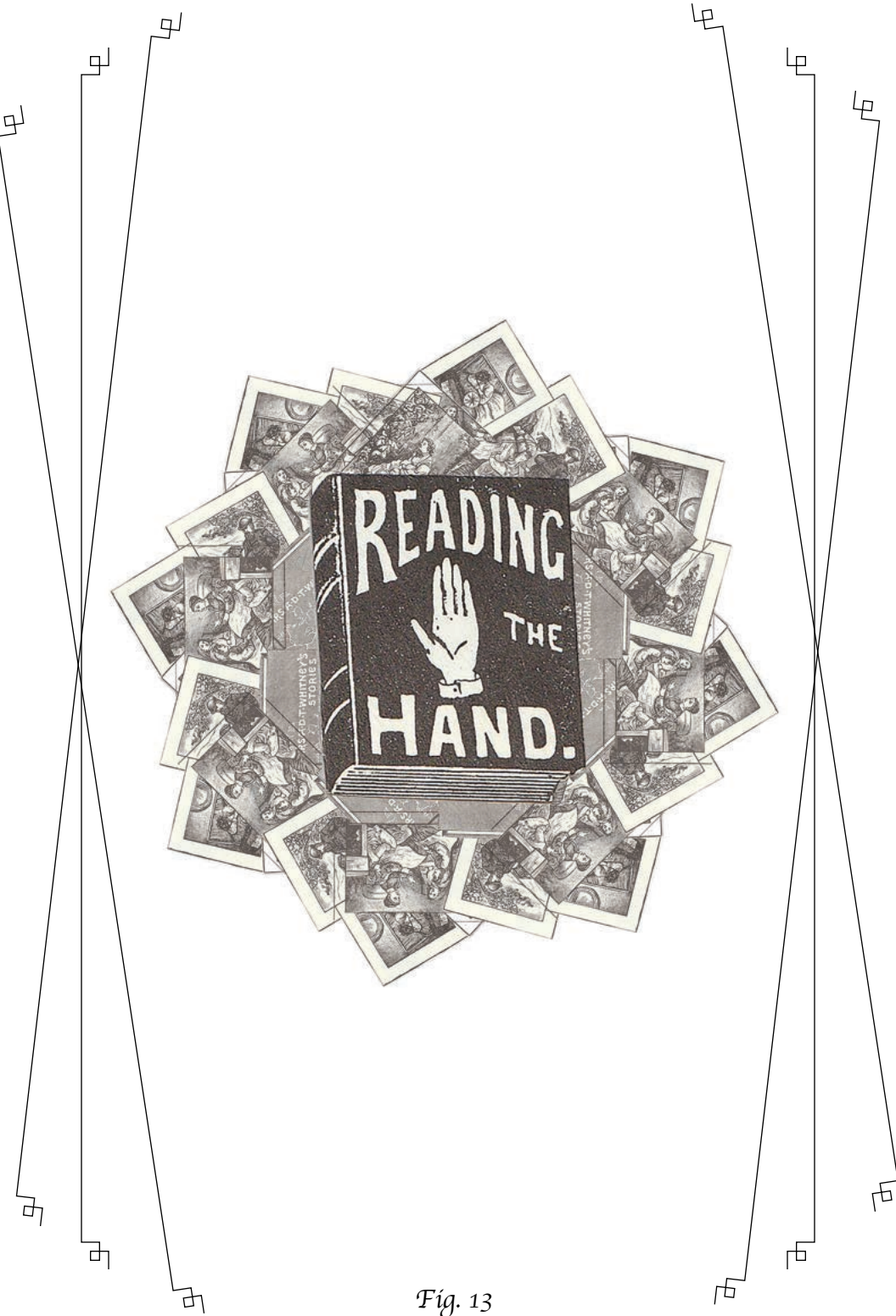


Fig. 13



Fig. 14



create your own monument

The back cover of this zine features some of the fragmented pieces from which we developed these suggested monuments for a future Las Vegas. Other sources include the UNLV Digital Collections online archive, but we encourage you to use source material that is important to you, your community, and our collective future. In fact, this entire zine could be cut up and repurposed for the sake of building new ideas and dismantling prescribed imaginings.

Fig. 15

