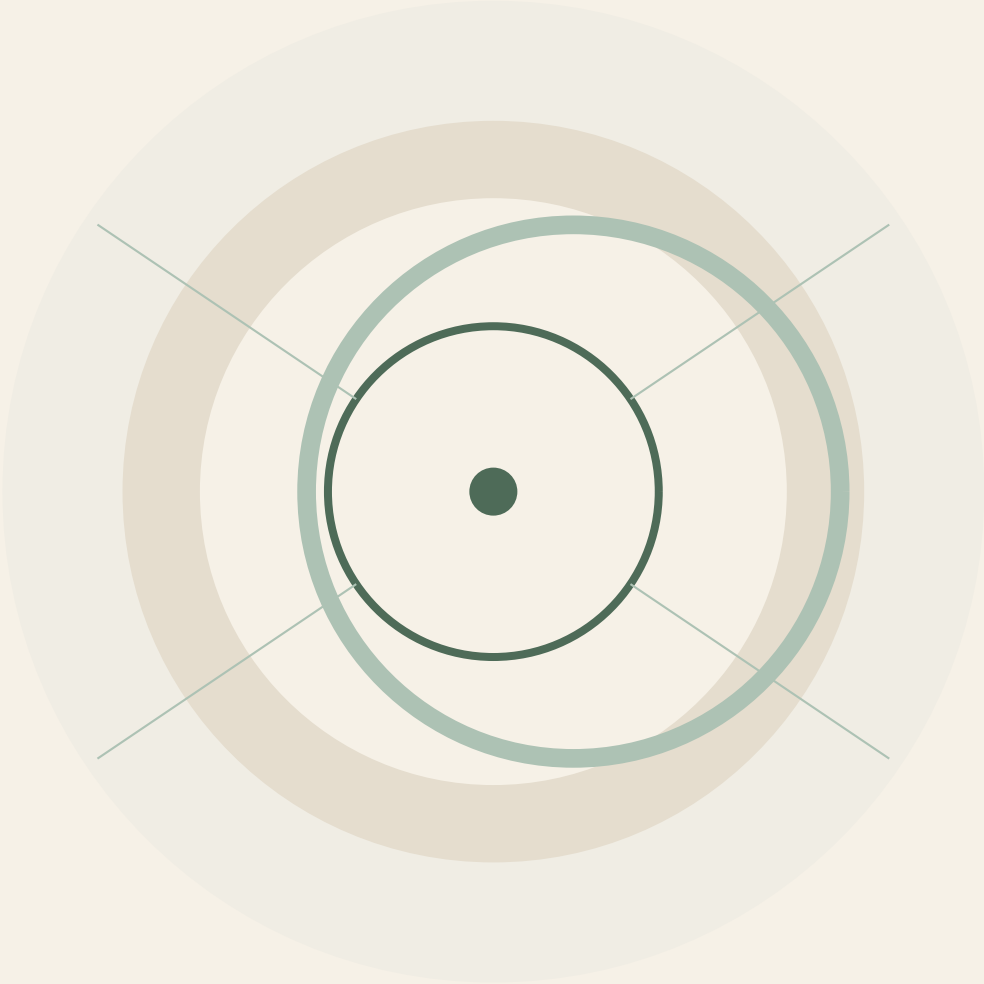
VOLUME TWO

POSITION

CREATIVE IDENTITY & DIRECTION

A workbook for recognising your creative language, clarifying your point of view and choosing where to go next.

EXPLORE • POSITION • RESOLVE



ATLAS&NATION

EXPLORE • POSITION • RESOLVE

Why Position?

A BRIEF NOTE

Creative work rarely moves straight from inspiration to a finished outcome.

Explore helps you discover and develop possibilities.

Position helps you recognise what is becoming yours — your recurring signals, influences, values and direction.

Resolve helps you turn that direction into a coherent project, collection or body of work.

Starting here? Gather three to five pieces of your own work or experiments for the Notice stage. Sketches, samples, class projects or quick Explore experiments are enough to begin.

Use as many working pages as you need. Skip or repeat canvases where useful.

THREE VOLUMES • ONE CREATIVE JOURNEY

EXPLORE	POSITION	RESOLVE
Discover and develop possibilities.	Recognise your creative language and direction.	Turn that direction into a coherent body of work.

WHAT THIS VOLUME HELPS YOU DO

1. Step back from individual experiments
2. Look across your work as a whole
3. Recognise what feels consistent and true
4. Choose a clearer creative direction

HOW TO USE POSITION

Use this volume to gather visual evidence from your own work before over-explaining it.

Paste, sketch, swatch, annotate and compare.

The goal is not to force a label. The goal is to notice what is becoming yours.

Carry forward a visual direction grounded in your own work, with useful signals, boundaries and a project seed.

“What feels most like me — and where do I want to take it next?”

Method Overview

Position helps you move from patterns and influences toward a clearer creative direction.

On your first pass, follow the stages in order. Revisit any stage when the work needs it.

A FIRST PASS

Pages 4 → 10 → 16 → 20 → 24 → 30 → 37

Use other pages when needed. The open canvases are working space, not compulsory tasks.

Visual first, words second.

Paste • sketch • swatch • annotate • compare • refine

01

NOTICE

See what keeps appearing

02

TRACE

Follow where it comes from

03

DISTIL

Keep what feels essential

04

DEFINE

Clarify what you care about

05

POSITION

Understand where your work sits

06

DIRECT

Choose the route to develop

07

COMMIT

Commit to a clear direction

Notice What Repeats

DATE / /

HOW TO USE THIS PAGE

Look across several pieces of your own work — not just one.

Notice what keeps returning before deciding what it means.

Patterns are evidence. Interpretation comes later.

WORKING AT A4

Write brief answers. Use thumbnails in the larger panel.

01 LOOK ACROSS YOUR WORK

Choose several projects, experiments or pieces that feel representative.

02 RECURRING SUBJECTS / THEMES

Ideas, stories, questions or topics that appear more than once.

03 VISUAL QUALITIES

Colours, forms, textures, scale, composition or mood I return to.

04 WAYS OF WORKING

Processes, techniques or habits I prefer.

05 WHAT OTHERS NOTICE

Comments, feedback or qualities other people repeatedly recognise in my work.

06 WHAT FEELS INTENTIONAL?

Which repeated choices feel deliberate and meaningful?

07 WHAT MIGHT JUST BE HABIT?

Which patterns may come from convenience, comfort or repetition?

FIRST PATTERN TO INVESTIGATE

Write a short answer.

I keep returning to...

Notice
Your Space

STEP BACK AND LOOK

Use this as an open notice wall. Bring fragments from across your work together.

Paste, sketch, swatch, trace and annotate.

Do not organise too quickly. Let proximity reveal what keeps returning.

LOOK FOR

- Colour and form
- Material and texture
- Subject and symbol
- Mood and movement

WORKING AT A4

Use the large wall for visual work. Keep annotations brief.

OPEN NOTICE WALL

Notice Body of Work Board

LAY IT OUT

Bring several projects, pieces or experiments together.

Work across the page instead of judging each piece alone. Group, move, overlap and annotate until relationships become visible.

ASK

What repeats?

What changes?

What feels most alive?

What does not belong?

BODY OF WORK BOARD

Notice Pattern Study 01

ISOLATE ONE PATTERN

Choose one recurring signal that seems worth understanding. Collect several examples from different pieces or experiments.

Compare what changes and what stays recognisable.

A PATTERN COULD BE

A shape or mark

A colour relationship

A material choice

A mood, action or rhythm

RECURRING PATTERN 01

Notice Pattern Study 02

TEST A SECOND PATTERN

Choose another recurring signal. It may support the first pattern or pull in a different direction.

Collect examples, compare contexts and notice when it feels strongest. Let contrast sharpen what you see.

NOTICE

- Where it appears
- What changes
- What stays consistent
- Why it may matter

RECURRING PATTERN 02

Notice Pattern Connections

CONNECT THE SIGNALS

Place your two patterns together. Add examples that sit between them.

Draw lines, cluster, overlap and annotate. Look for a relationship without forcing one. Record what you are beginning to see.

THEY MAY

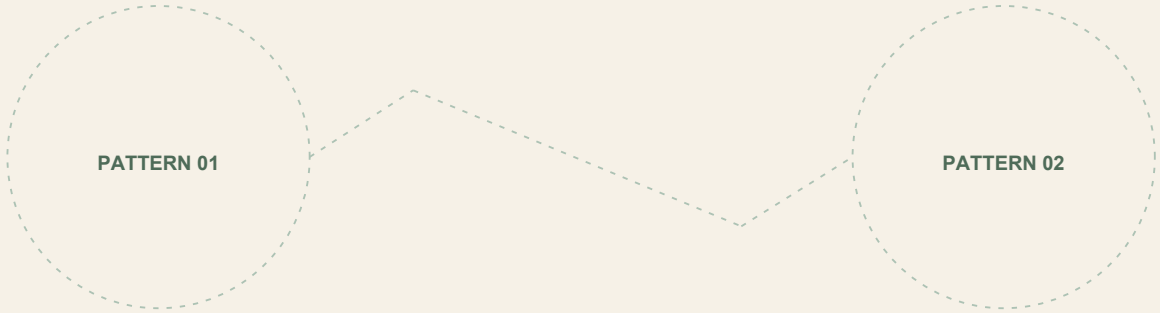
Combine or contrast

Share a value

Shift across media

Suggest a direction

WHAT I AM BEGINNING TO NOTICE



Trace Where It Comes From

FOLLOW THE THREAD

Influence is part of every creative practice.

The aim is not to erase it, but to understand it.

Trace what shaped you — then notice where you begin to diverge.

WORKING AT A4

Use short answers or source codes in the small panels.

08 PEOPLE / PRACTICES THAT SHAPED ME

Artists, designers, filmmakers, writers, makers or movements I return to.

09 WHAT I ADMIRE

What exactly am I responding to — approach, values, technique, atmosphere, attitude?

10 VISUAL INFLUENCES

Images, places, cultures, objects and environments that recur.

11 PERSONAL SOURCES

Experiences, memories, places and relationships.

12 WHAT I'VE ABSORBED

Ideas or conventions I may have adopted.

13 WHERE DOES INFLUENCE BECOME IMITATION?

What feels too close, too borrowed or not yet transformed enough?

14 WHERE DO I BEGIN TO DIVERGE?

What choices, combinations or perspectives feel increasingly my own?

A THREAD I WANT TO FOLLOW

This influence matters because...

Write a short answer.