

THE SOCIAL GATHERING

----- we've been living through changes -----

ISSUE
17

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE SOCIAL   **WHITE RABBIT**

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2020

Apologies if this week's condensed edition has arrived later than normal – the summer holidays have kicked in with all of the attendant issues that arise with kids shouting at you for sugar 24-7. Over the last week, we've each left our immediate bubble and put tentative steps out into the wider world. In one case, that meant a stern case of Norovirus (family portion). In my case, it meant heading to London and a chance trip to the soon-to-open Design Museum exhibition **Electronic: From Kraftwerk to the Chemical Brothers**.

Without wishing to give too much away – or to break the reviews embargo – it's pretty bloody brilliant. At points, it's the closest experience I've had to being in a proper dark and dank nightclub since this all kicked in. Violent strobes, over loud music and a long walk to the bog. Sound bleed. Madness. Possibly this is projection but at points it's as beautiful and as strange as a great night out. The only thing missing was a group of mates.

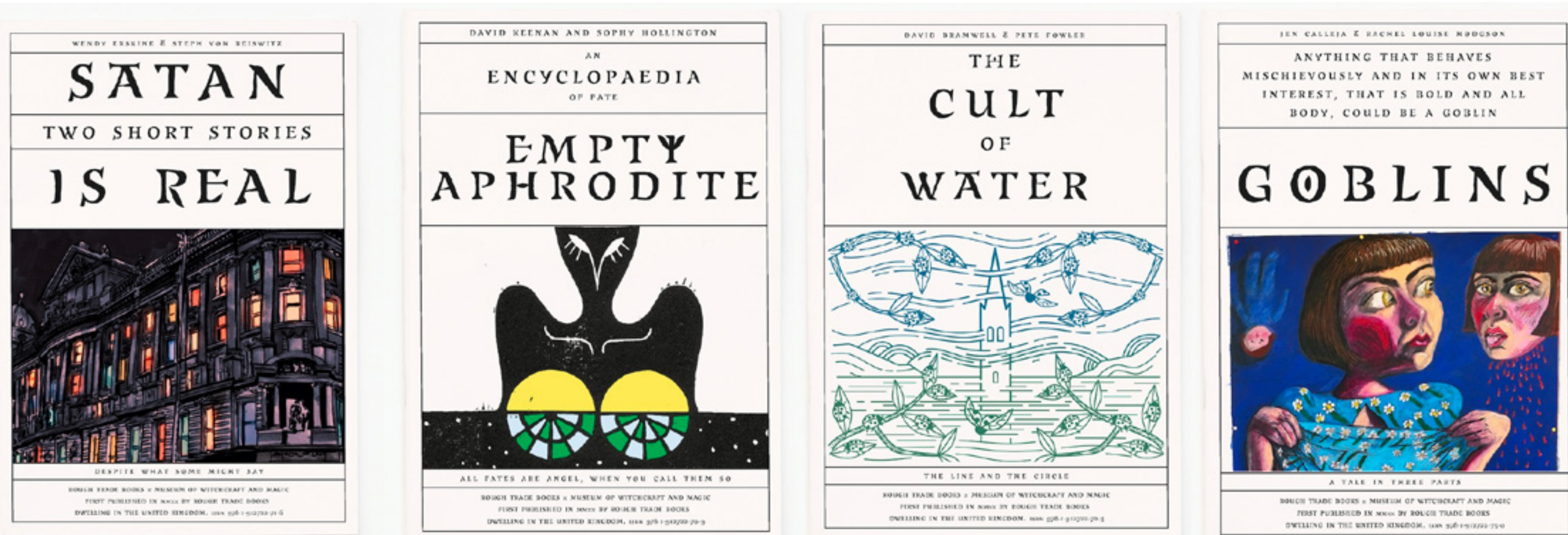
I'm not even sure what my point is this week. I'm feeling nostalgic for something I know I can't have. A nightclub. A festival. A pub where the music ramps up and the whole place gets on the tables and starts voguing as the smell of poppers takes over the room. Basically, whichever way you chose to experience the loss of control. Just imagine being happily out of control again.

Next week, I think the Social Gathering will properly go on holiday. Full astral projection, temporal displacement, Altered States style. We've got a couple of brilliant pieces travel that should help you mediate your way out of summer 2020, towards somewhere more transcendental. After all, if we're stuck here, we might as well try to get out of our heads.

In the meantime, please raise a glass to our friend Dan Martin who passed this week. A great writer, a lovely friend and a kind soul; the man who dragged Courtney Love down to jazz night at the Social one time then forced us all to go to Trash afterwards. Stay Beautiful, mate.

MUSEUM OF WITCHCRAFT AND MAGIC SERIES

ROUGH TRADE BOOKS



In deepest darkest Cornwall, within the enchanting fishing harbour of Boscastle you'll find a museum with a difference—the **Museum of Witchcraft and Magic**. This museum explores magical practice, making comparisons with other systems of belief, from ancient times to the present day and is home to the world's oldest and largest collection of items relating to witchcraft, magic and the occult.

In 2021, the museum will celebrate its 70th anniversary. As a warm-up to this special anniversary publication, the latest series of Rough Trade Editions – published in association with the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic – seek dialogue with the culture and folklore of magical practice.

[Read a short excerpt from each of the titles here](#)

BACKTRACK, APPLETREE WICK 2

VASHTI BUNYAN

I set out on a path I had not planned for, but it surely had its moments.

The contrast between the traditional impresarios' world that I had glimpsed through our neighbours the Blacks at Appletree Wick and their friends, with this – Andrew Loog Oldham casting aside the old guard, wresting the reins and claiming it all for the young – would fix some of the aching rebellion I felt so keenly.

[Read in full here](#)



PESSIMISM IS FOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: THE LIFE OF ONE POEM

SALENA GODDEN



Exploring the timeline and history of one of the great Salena Godden's definitive lightning strikes, a poem has also been a public art piece on display at the Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol, become a teaching tool in schools and universities, been sung by 10,000 21st century suffragettes in Trafalgar Square and rang out loud and clear in peaceful protests and festival fields across the country. *Pessimism is for Lightweights* is a movement and an anthem for our troubled and troubling times.

[Read more about it here](#)

THEY LIVE

WILL BURNS

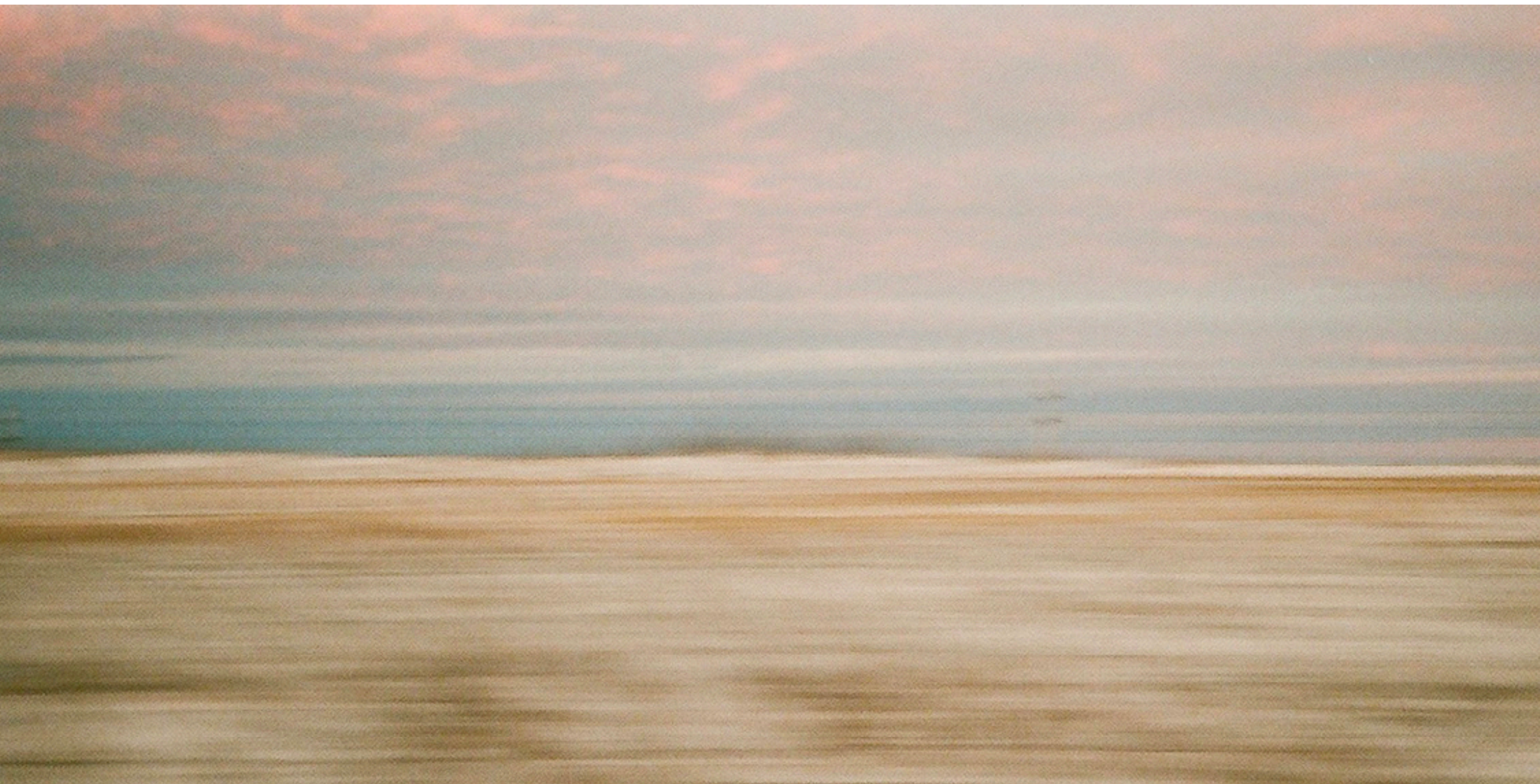
In an era of utterly degraded public discourse – where politicians operate in the linguistic realm of the half-truth, unchallenged or impeded by a gutless media-class, as incapable of an elegant sentence as they are at holding power accountable – is there a more powerful statement of critique than one which posits both the mutability and the unadorned injunction of the public utterance?

Will Burns writes on John Carpenter's cult classic *They Live* - [Read here](#)

**WRITING
IS A
RADICAL ACT**

THE LOST SHIP OF THE DESERT

KIRK LAKE



There were thousands of them. Millions maybe. All across the sky, billowing around like some dusty gold and yellow snowstorm. They filled the air, running the line of the highway for miles. Ten miles. Twenty miles. Lou couldn't tell anymore. The desert passed by the window, a blur of sand and rock and scrub. If it hadn't been for the odd pothole that caused the bus to shudder on its shot suspension she could've imagined they weren't really moving at all. Just an endless loop of creosote bushes, aimless wire fencing and buckshot billboards being hauled slowly past the window. And always the frame of a sullen blue sky now filled as if some giant pillow had burst somewhere.

A beautiful collaboration between Kirk Lake and photographer Lorena Lohr – [Read it here](#)

THIS WEEK HAS BEEN POWERED ON BY...

Fajitas / Berkhamstead / Day dreaming about Aaron Banks in prison / Sophie Green's BBQ / Stones on the beach / World Crisis - Busy Signal / Impaired charity shop browse / Squirrel with guitar hat / Che Lingo - Spaghetti / JJ Frost Burial Amen Version Giveaway / St Ove promo / Lidl tomatoes / My brother's dog / Bugsey Malone with Skip Marley - Cause and Commotion / Hotel / Hawksmore / Ceephax - Path to None / Electronic at the Design Museum / Arriving Somewhere But Not Here / Camden Brewery White Pilsner / evil cat / pomp rock, still / hippies in the street / dreams of Membury Services (never visited) / the depth of Stoke Newington Deliveroo / The Avalanches + Jamie xx + Neneh Cherry / new pants / Yard Sale / Deftones 'White Pony' / What is Love?

The Social Gathering Broadsheet is brought to you with love from Lee Brackstone, Carl Gosling, Tom Noble & Robin Turner.