

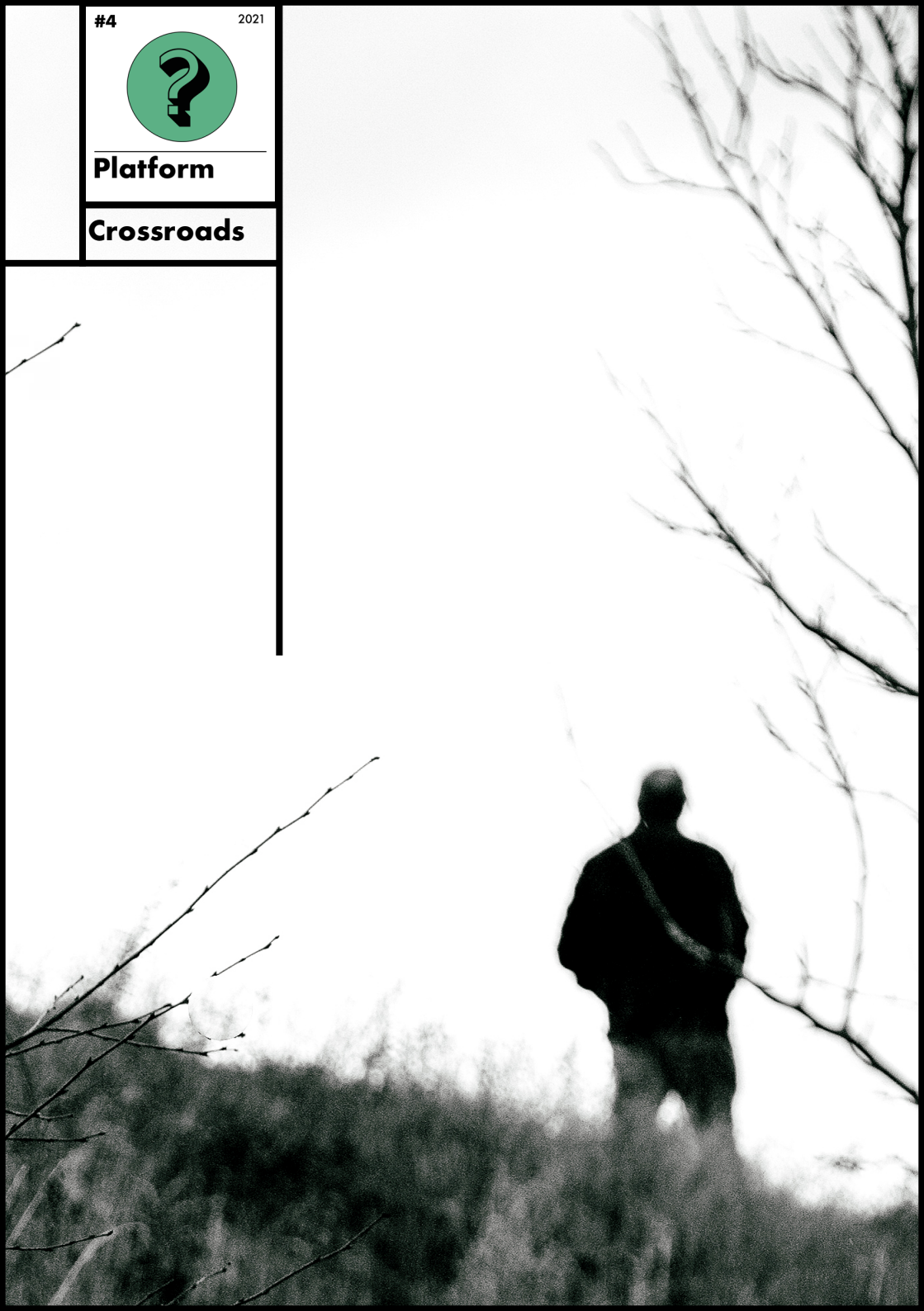
#4

2021



Platform

Crossroads





Issue Four:

Crossroads

This issue of PLATFORM is published as we finally start to move forward after the Covid pandemic. As we start to gain more confidence in going out and about, our lives are beginning to return to how they were pre-March 2020. We have chosen to reflect on the theme of Crossroads, this can be defined in many ways – a simple choice of whether we go in one direction or another – but the Crossroads can also be defined in much greater terms.

Our world has changed immeasurably over the past 12 months and many of us have had time to reflect and to take stock of our lives and our legacy. We have had a chance to consider what we need to do to make changes that affect our planet. As we move forward and restart our lives, we have the opportunity to shape the direction and future of this planet and all the living things that call Earth their home.

These thoughts are reflected in different ways by each of the submissions featured in the zine, but all reflect our need to make choices, both big and small, as we move forward into a post-Covid world.



Issue 4 also represents a crossroads in another way, it is the first time we have featured submissions through a public Open Call, in addition to submissions from Open Eye gallery volunteers. The responses we received have been exciting and have added a new dimension to the conversation that we may revisit in the future.

"Look closely at the present you are constructing: it should look like the future you are dreaming." - Alice Walker

Cover image by David Hiney
Page 1 Image by Chris Le Messurier

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Amy D'Agorne

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Over the past year, we have all had plenty of time to reflect on the freedoms we used to take for granted. Four years ago, to date, I was hitchhiking around the north island in New Zealand with my good friend. Every day we were faced with multiple crossroads in the form of deciding as to which road to take, which city or area of natural beauty to head towards next, or whether to free camp on the beach or risk it with a stranger's sofa.

When I look back at some of my photographs from that time, I can really appreciate just how much freedom we really had. Photographs afford us a window to the past, but they can also give us perspective on how we live now, and how we got here, to the person we are now.

I guess we are all learning to deal with different types of crossroads now, if nothing else, the pandemic has definitely given us all the opportunity to take stock in our past experiences and realize what experiences we truly want for our future selves.

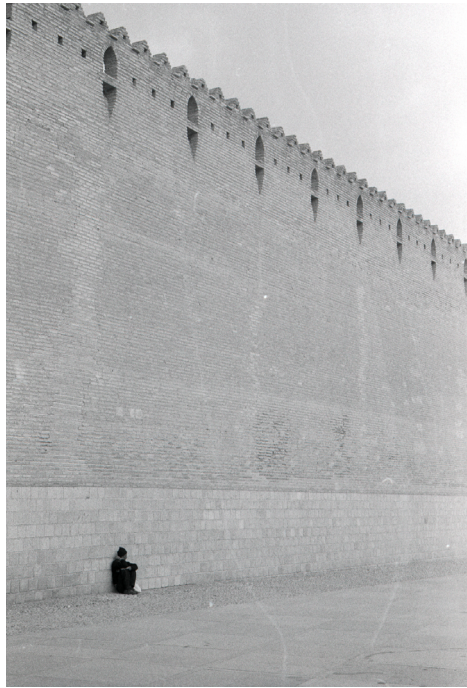




Chris Le Messurier

@chrilemess  www.chrilemess.com

Chris Le Messurier is a London based photographer interested in people, their environment, and their conflicts with both natural forces and the human condition. His extensive travels have seen him collect images for the last decade and he is slowly piecing this story together.






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Casey Logue

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Crossroads

I've always found the countryside a strange place

The dark and the quiet, fields connect to sky

In winter, I'd rather be anywhere than here,

Picking my way through the dead leaves, the icy grass, the greying landscape

These country roads were there, the same, as I grew up

And now I'm back again, at that intersection we've all been thrown into

What should our relationship with our past look like?

It's considered a privilege to grow up in the country

Surrounded by nothing.



Anneka French

 [@anneka.french](https://www.instagram.com/anneka.french)

Cross Over

Cross-hatch, cross over
The assembly line motors on, through
Over cross, hatch cross
Sweep the bottom
Spread the legs
Bring forth change
And start up – that bit's important
To the other parts
And the rest of this.

Cross under the conversation
Until you cast a line in plaster
A line that dances, in glittering scales,
Across the envelope, across the newspaper
Star sign in the staff room.
There is no TOIL
And the pond fish has gone.
I told the bear it has moved house
Though I'm not sure where.

Cross-stitch the parts together
Start the engine, the mercury square
And the dreaming dinosaur may be there.
May be here or back elsewhere.
The sag belly was the one that got away.
It floated down river, down road
And right out through the cross-
leaded window pane, osmosis
Illuminating, grinning, dissolving
Like a cat made of sponge.



David Hiney

@davidhiney_pix

Legend has it that blues musician Robert Johnson sold his soul to the devil at the Crossroads, in return for musical success.


As humanity stands at the post Covid crossroads - will we sell our planets future for short term wealth and prosperity for the few or look to a better, cleaner, and sustainable future.

Which road will we take?





Martha Goddard

 [@marthaa_rachel](#)

Picked a Post

Picked a post to run to,
now it's running rings around my head,
thought I had it figured out.
I've got bones to pick,
but I can't pick which angle I'm approaching through,
it all gets caught up in the blue.

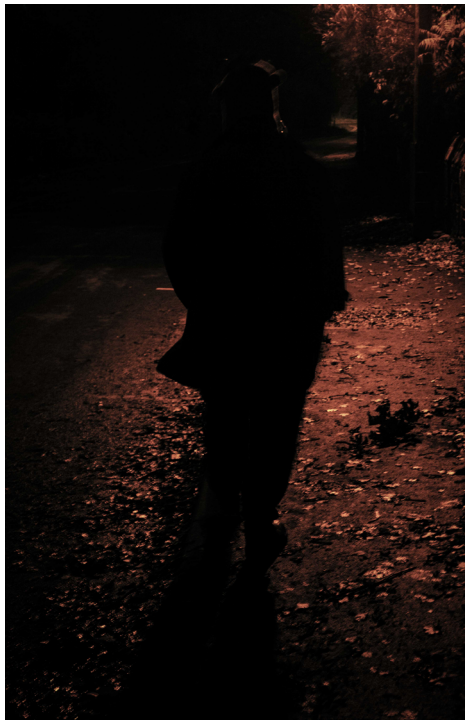
I know myself well
That's a lie
That's a lie
That's a lie,
I am changing
All the time,
All the time.
All the time
I'm making up my mind
Think I'm making up my mind.

I've got lots to say
But I won't say a single thing of worth to you,
I don't know why, that's always been true.
I can speak my mind,
but only when I find
the time to.

I know myself well,
That's a lie
That's a lie
That's a lie
I am changing
all the time
all the time
all the time
I'm making up my mind.
Wish I was making my mind.

James Thomas-Abbott

 @jamestomas.a_





A final note...

The Platform team would like to thank everyone who submitted their work and would encourage anyone who has work to share to submit to future editions.

All the proceeds from the sales of the print copy of this edition will be donated to Open Door Charity.

Open Door Charity is an independent mental health charity based in Wirral, Merseyside. They offer a range of services for young people, young adults (ages 16-30) and parents across specialist focused sites to support those who are suffering from a range of mental health and wellbeing issues such as anxiety, low mood, stress and panic attacks. Free from geographical boundaries, they operate on a membership model where members can access one-to-one support as well as a range of activities, workshops, and voluntary opportunities. Access is free and immediate; with no waiting lists being a key focus of their work since beginning in 2011. Open Door is all about shaping change in mental health, achieved through their working strands of empowerment, culture and opportunity.

Twitter: @theodcharity

Instagram: @theodcharity

Facebook: Open Door Charity

If you would like to get involved with the next publication, or simply feel like a chat, email us at platform@openeye.org.uk, or alternatively, find us on Instagram @oeg_platform.

Take care and make good choices. Collectively, we can shape the future of our world.

The Platform Team:

James Thomas-Abbott

David Hiney

