



edition 4
September 2016

CUS! 'ZINE

CUS! 'Zine
Edition 4 – September 2016

CUS! 'Zine is a quarterly collaborative 'zine which combines art and politics.

For more information go to: tankgreen.com/cus-zine/. Twitter: twitter.com/cuszine. Email: cuszine@gmail.com.

CUS! 'Zine is always interested in working with new voices, especially those from outside the UK.

Please email us if you want to get involved.

Table of Contents	
Page 2:	Who's cussing this edition
Page 3:	Christiane Eck
Page 4:	Christiane Eck
Page 5:	e bond
Page 6:	e bond
Page 7:	Garry Freckleton
Page 8:	Garry Freckleton
Page 9:	Leonie Wieser
Page 10:	Leonie Wieser
Page 11:	Tony Byrnes
Page 12:	Tony Byrnes
Page 13:	Tank Green
Page 14:	Tank Green

All words and images are copyright of the respective authors.

The voices in this edition of **CUS!** are:

Christiane Eck is a London-based culture worker who pursues a gallery day job and is also following a newly found passion for graphic design. Informed by an academic background in history of art and architecture and inspired by an eclectic love of music, films and fiction, she occasionally blogs/tweets/instagrams as (@)frankandfloyd.

e bond makes digital spaces by day, handmade books by night, hangs out with trees on weekends and writes something close to poems in the spaces between. Under her studio roughdraftbooks, created in 2003, she makes one-of-a-kind artists books, forms, journals and art pieces that fuse and blur mediums, blending art, design and poetry. You can find her online here roughdraftbooks.com/blog & here 365daysofwork.com or on instagram @eisroughdraft.

Garry Freckleton spends most of his time designing & making Things, Spaces & Places. An Architect based in Scotland, he's eternally curious about almost everything & never stops reading. You can find him contemplating work & life in his studio next to the river, with a cuppa. Twitter: @garry_architect.

Leonie Wieser is a PhD candidate at Northumbria University, where she researches people's engagement in local history and the different ways histories are made. Her interests are the interactions between the past and the present, and social and political change. Email: leonie.wieser@northumbria.ac.uk.

Tony Byrnes lives and breathes rock'n'roll via his metropolitan day job, so by night he longs for a quieter life, more in tune with his roots. He can be found banging on about Ireland as well as endorsing left-field music, films, art and politics on Twitter as @borrnysy.

Tank Green is a hoarder and a wanderer and a site of opposition. She very much doubts that any of it will ever make sense, but she'll keep working through things nevertheless. She's always looking for an exit, and in this respect, she thinks ET ruined her life. Her collages are made old skool style: newspapers, glue, and scissors. You can get her at tankgreen.com. She did the front cover for this edition.

Es gibt



Brexit

Baby!

Brexit. I've been trying to let it sink in for the last couple of months that the majority of those who voted in the referendum decided that the UK would be better off leaving the EU. I'm not quite there yet.

In all honesty, I feel absolutely shattered by this result. As an EU immigrant to the UK, I can't help but worry about the xenophobia that has been openly displayed in the run up to and after the referendum. I wonder how everyday life will change for me if the UK indeed decides to go ahead with leaving the EU. Will I have to prove my value for this country and (how) is it going to be measured? I'm not a doctor or an engineer, I've got a humanities degree and I work in the arts. I'm not a leader, I'm a cog in the machine. I will never earn big money doing what I do.

At the same time, I am, weirdly, just as tired of thinking and talking about the result of the referendum as the next person. That Brexit may now become reality is, of course, appalling, but it didn't come as much of a surprise. It had been sneakily marketed as a way of alleviating the austerity measures we have all been hit by in the last six years. I realised this when I re-read an essay by anthropologist David Graeber that a friend from Germany recently sent me: *Despair Fatigue – How hopelessness grew boring* (originally published in March of this year in online magazine *The Baffler*). Whereas it doesn't explicitly mention Brexit, it chronicles the fabrication of austerity in the UK and the reactions to it both from economists and the people affected by it. Revisiting the piece now made it clear that the referendum result was almost inevitable – not because all *Leave* voters are naive but because it gave them the chance to make their voice heard and to stick two fingers up at Westminster politicians.

Anyway, the damage is done. What I can absolutely not get my head around is how the whole debacle has been handled since. The government appears to be in no rush to implement Brexit – not least as policies and treaties such as the Good Friday Agreement make it a sheer impossible task – or to explain to the general public what "the triggering of article 50" would entail.

At the moment, nobody seems to even want to find out what the consequences of actually leaving the EU would be, economic or otherwise. Brexiteers on the other hand are once again taking advantage of this vacuum of facts by continuing to spread their post-truth nonsense. Their approach is reaching new heights with articles already being published that suggest Brexit hasn't done the country any harm; on the contrary – they proclaim that the economy is on its way up.

The only good that can come from this sad state of affairs is the opportunity to take post-truthism one step further and to beat the liars with their own means: let's simply pretend that Brexit has already happened. I suggest we encourage all sorts of public statements which imply that the UK has, in fact, already left the EU and will be great again by, say, tomorrow lunchtime, at the latest. I am fairly confident that we might just be able to get away with this until there is so much false information out there that nobody will be able to prove if we did indeed leave or not. It seems possible.

Instead we could tackle the real roots of our society's problems. There are enough decent people out there, probably even among *Leave* voters, and there hasn't been a better time to take action. Clues can again be taken from Graeber's essay mentioned above, in which he records "a wave of almost insolent optimism and a (admittedly hesitant) return to utopian visions" among grassroots movements. He argues that "any sort of grand, positive vision for [the UK's] future ... can come only from the left" and that the make up of the UK with its "peculiar traditions of small-scale enterprise and amateur science ... might prove unusually apt" for tackling the economic challenges the world is facing today. This may indeed be a utopian vision in itself but one that is desperately needed for a future that will potentially see the UK outside of the EU... if, that is, we can't stop Brexit after all.

Christiane Eck



©

© mri

Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi
Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi
Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi
Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi
Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi
Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi
Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi
Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi
Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi Mni Wiconi

TREATY OF FORT LARAMIE WITH SIOUX, ETC., September 17, 1851.

ARTICLE 1.

The aforesaid nations, parties to this treaty, having assembled for the purpose of establishing and confirming peaceful relations amongst themselves, do hereby covenant and agree to abstain in future from all hostilities whatever against each other, to maintain good faith and friendship in all their mutual intercourse, and to make an effective and lasting peace.

ARTICLE 2.

The aforesaid nations do hereby recognize the right of the United States Government to establish roads, military and other posts, within their respective territories.

ARTICLE 3.

In consideration of the rights and privileges acknowledged in the preceding article, the United States bind themselves to protect the aforesaid Indian nations against the commission of all depredations by the people of the said United States, after the ratification of this treaty.

ARTICLE 4.

The aforesaid Indian nations do hereby agree and bind themselves to make restitution or satisfaction for any wrongs committed, after the ratification of this treaty, by any band or individual of their people, on the people of the United States, whilst lawfully residing in or passing through their respective territories.

ARTICLE 5.

The aforesaid Indian nations do hereby recognize and acknowledge the following tracts of country, included within the metes and boundaries hereinafter designated, as their respective territories, viz: The territory of the Sioux or Dahcotah Nation, commencing the mouth of the White Earth River, on the Missouri River; thence in a southwesterly direction to the forks of the Platte River; thence up the north fork of the Platte River to a point known as the Red Butte, or where the road leaves the river; thence along the range of mountains known as the Black Hills, to the head-waters of Heart River; thence down Heart River to its mouth; and thence down the Missouri River to the place of beginning.

The territory of the Gros Ventre, Mandans, and Arrikaras Nations, commencing at the mouth of Heart River; thence up the Missouri River to the mouth of the Yellowstone River; thence up the Yellowstone River to the mouth of Powder River in a southeasterly direction, to the head-waters of the Little Missouri River; thence along the Black Hills to the head of Heart River, and thence down Heart River to the place of beginning.

The territory of the Assinaboin Nation, commencing at the mouth of Yellowstone River; thence up the Missouri River to the mouth of the Muscle-shell River; thence from the mouth of the Muscle-shell River in a southeasterly direction to the head-waters of Big Dry Creek; thence down that creek to where it empties into the Yellowstone River, nearly opposite the mouth of Powder River, and thence down the Yellowstone River to the place of beginning.

The territory of the Blackfoot Nation, commencing at the mouth of Muscle-shell River; thence up the Missouri River to its source; thence along the main range of the Rocky Mountains, in a southerly direction, to the head-waters of the northern source of the Yellowstone River; thence down the Yellowstone River to the mouth of Twenty-five Yard Creek; thence along the head-waters of the Muscle-shell River, and thence down the Muscle-shell River to the place of beginning.

The territory of the Crow Nation, commencing at the mouth of Powder River on the Yellowstone; thence up Powder River to its source; thence along the main range of the Black Hills, and Wind River Mountains to the head-waters of the Yellowstone River; thence down the Yellowstone River to the mouth of Twenty-five Yard Creek; thence to the head waters of the Muscle-shell River; thence down the Muscle-shell River to its mouth; thence to the head-waters of Big Dry Creek; and thence to its mouth.

The territory of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, commencing at the Red Butte, at the place where the road leaves the north fork of the Platte River; thence up the north fork of the Platte River to its source; thence along the main range of the Rocky Mountains to the head-waters of the Arkansas River; thence down the Arkansas River to the crossing of the Santa Fé road; thence in a northwesterly direction to the forks of the Platte River, and thence up the Platte River to the place of beginning.

It is, however, understood that, in making this recognition and acknowledgement, the aforesaid Indian nations do not hereby abandon or prejudice any rights or claims they may have to other lands; and further, that they do not surrender the privilege of hunting, fishing, or passing over any of the tracts of country heretofore described.

ARTICLE 6.

The parties to the second part of this treaty having selected principals or head-chiefs for their respective nations, through whom all national business will hereafter be conducted, do hereby bind themselves to sustain said chiefs and their successors during good behavior.

ARTICLE 7.

In consideration of the treaty stipulations, and for the damages which have or may occur by reason thereof to the Indian nations, parties hereto, and for their maintenance and the improvement of their moral and social customs, the United States bind themselves to deliver to the said Indian nations the sum of fifty thousand dollars per annum for the term of ten years, with the right to continue the same at the discretion of the President of the United States for a period not exceeding five years thereafter, in provisions, merchandise, domestic animals, and agricultural implements, in such proportions as may be deemed best adapted to their condition by the President of the United States, to be distributed in proportion to the population of the aforesaid Indian nations.

ARTICLE 8.

It is understood and agreed that should any of the Indian nations, parties to this treaty, violate any of the provisions thereof, the United States may withhold the whole or apportion of the annuities mentioned in the preceding article from the nation so offending, until, in the opinion of the President of the United States, proper satisfaction shall have been made.

In testimony whereof the said D. D. Mitchell and Thomas Fitzpatrick commissioners as aforesaid, and the chiefs, headmen, and braves, parties hereto, have set their hands and affixed their marks, on the day and at the place first above written.

water is original.

water is between 4.2-4.5 billion years old.

the water we have now is what's been here, literally forever.

Wiconi

There is a pipeline being built to transport oil. There is a pipeline being built to transport oil under rivers and sacred native sites. This pipeline was given the name Dakota, which means "friend" or "ally". The people who live on the land this pipeline is crossing are called the Dakota, Lakota and Nakota people. These two nouns have the same name but are not the same thing. The people have been protesting the pipeline to protect the rivers they drink from and the land they were promised 165 years ago.

"Energy Transfer Partners, the builders of the pipeline, is being allowed as a for-profit company to trump federal trust responsibilities guaranteed in the 1851 and 1868 United States treaties with the L/D/Nakota tribes, which remain the supreme law of the land as guaranteed in the US constitution." (see above treaty) The Lakota & friends have been protecting and protesting the pipeline not just for themselves but for all of us. They have been protecting this land since last spring.

FACT: The Dakota Access Pipeline is projected to be roughly 1,100 miles long, crossing through four states carrying approximately 470,000 barrels per day of fracked oil from North Dakota's Bakkan oil fields to the heartland of Illinois.

FACT: The pipeline is slated to cross several bodies of water including two major U.S. rivers: the Missouri and Mississippi. Currently ten million people rely on these rivers for water, ten million people.

FACT: Oil pipelines have a tendency to leak and break. It's usually not a matter of *if*, but *when*.

FACT: This pipeline hasn't been built yet. We can still affect some change. mni waconi means water is life in Lakota. If you want to help them continue the protection of water for all living beings, check out respectourwater.com and sacredstonecamp.org
#NODAKOTAACCESS #REZPECTOURWATER

Leadershits

It seems like there's a constant stream of leadership contests at the moment, and it's starting to drive me bananas. To me it just seems like a distraction from the real nuts & bolts of how shit gets done in politics & who's 'in charge' makes much less difference than we are led to believe. I was reading a piece on how Hilary Clinton gets around, which basically said she hadn't driven a car for a very long time: not as First Lady, not as Senator or Secretary of State, and if she goes back into the White House, she won't be doing any driving as Pres either. The thinking goes that top people are too precious and their time is too valuable compared to mere mortals. For the Leader, every minute counts, but there is a real practical drawback to that belief, in that they are just one ordinary human.

I don't think that the majority of our dear leaders are so talented, capable or even particularly distinct from one another to make any real difference. They are at the mercy of the lobbyists, business interests, the press, very occasionally their electorate/the rabid mob (probably more fun in the past when heads frequently rolled). They are puppets with far too many hands grasping at the strings.

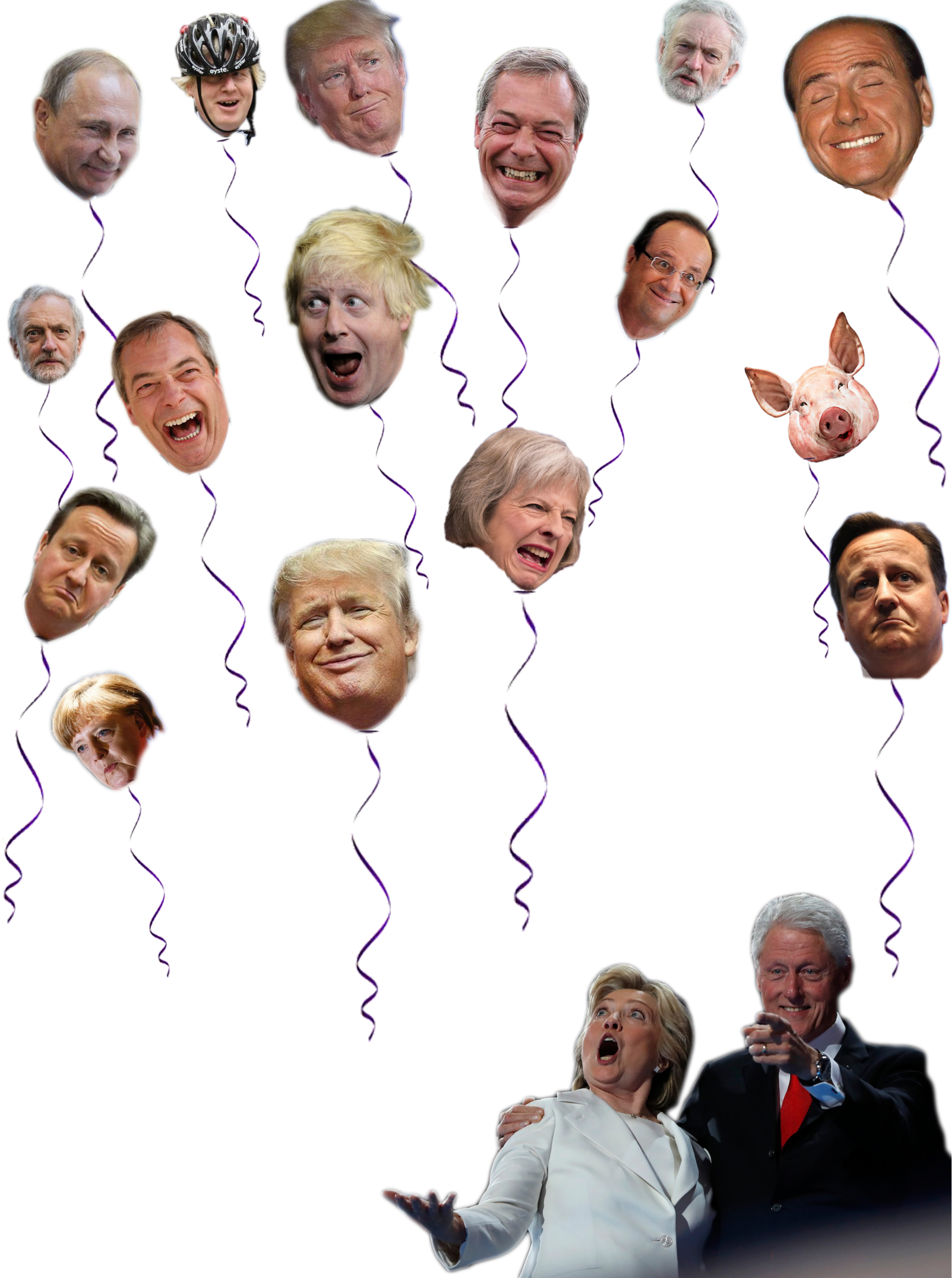
However, it wouldn't be the first time I've been wrong. Let's say that the chosen one, the individual in whom we have invested all our hopes and dreams is really that good - that one solitary human is vital to delivering all those promises. In that case they don't have a moment to waste. If they are so vital to key decisions which impact millions of people, each and every day, then surely they must be compelled to give everything they have for the common good of humanity.

With that in mind I propose the following regime for any head of state of any country with a population greater than, say, 2 million people. For their entire term of office they must:

1. **Never be allowed to drive themselves** as that would waste hours every day - they must be chauffeured. No big change here, but crucially when not in the car, they must fitted with racing rollerblades, no exceptions.
2. Be tube fed Soylent Green from a Camelback - any time spent chewing is time not spent dispensing wisdom and **vital instructions down the chain of command**
3. Be catheterised from day one. **Pee breaks are for the weak** and take far too long...
4. ...while we're at it lets throw in a colostomy bag too. If they are anything like me, that will save around 90mins/day which is a **brilliant return of productivity** on a small medical procedure investment.
5. Sleep? **No time for sleep, shitheads** - your mind and body is ours, so whether it's box upon box of Pro-Plus or handfuls of amphetamines, they will be on that shit 24/7
6. **Tweak that brain** even further to get maximum leadership juices flowing. I've been hearing some very good things about micro-dosing LSD & magic mushrooms as having all the upsides of Adderall and none of the side-effects. **Focus motherfuckers!**

I want this experiment carried out ASAP on the next available leader - that would be a **Change I Could Believe In.**

- Garry Freckleton





The UK's electorate's decision to leave the European Union has come as a shock to me, not least because I am an EU citizen myself, a resident but not a citizen of the UK. Now I am waiting for what will happen next. The shift from the UK being an EU member to not being an EU member will not come suddenly, but we will see creeping developments and slow transformations in many areas. The new Bourne film reflects the continuing worry about surveillance, suggesting that it can always be corrupted and hacked. I didn't really need Jason Bourne to tell me this, but it is a useful reminder, especially as we now have a prime minister who tells us that keeping users' web history for 12 months and collecting bulk communications data on the whole population is necessary to keep citizens safe. The new Investigatory Powers Bill also proposes to give access to communication data to local councils, such as to investigate benefits fraud.

In contrast, the European Commission and the European Parliament have been negotiating reform of data protection regulations, resulting in the General Data Protection Regulation, adopted in April 2016. I'd been reading about the MEP who had worked years on this proposal and on and off kept track of the developments. The reform succeeded and it seemed to me a positive step towards regulating companies' use of my data and clarifying issues of ownership. The EU has also negotiated a new deal with the US to ensure international companies can be held accountable for data they use. We are made to think that we are in control of portraying our lives, choosing the narrative – which photos we put online, what caption, what status, which of our purchases or interests we publish, and which we don't. But companies as well as security agencies can see more than what we publish, they see the other side, what we do before we publish, or "share", and after.

I wonder what will happen with our browsing histories now that the UK's future will not be impacted by EU regulations but by the investigatory powers bill. We were told the EU was undemocratic, but it offered a way of dealing with issues that were international and cannot be regulated on state-level. There are many things the EU does that I don't agree with, but at least there are moments when I am reassured that some of my concerns are reflected in the debates within the EU's political bodies. This then makes me think that it is worth participating, voting and staying in the loop about political developments. During the last year it has become ever clearer that many people have lost trust in formal politics. After my first contribution to this 'zine, Tank asked me why I thought people choose formal means of political representation. At the moment, the answer is – many probably don't. And with a population that does not trust its representatives, giving police and intelligence agencies more powers seems wrong. New laws are needed to deal with ever expanding available data – but I would prefer laws that target people who I actually think pose a threat to our society. Maybe the investigators will surprise us all and use their newly legalised powers to catch some tax evaders – that might go some way in restoring people's trust.

Theresa May would like to leave the European Convention on Human Rights, if she could get a parliamentary majority, a convention, which protects the right to privacy. I wonder if her cabinet meetings resemble Patrick Stewart's sketch of a prime minister who is sick of being told about human rights by the *Krauts* and the *Frogs*:

This is Britain the Land of Magna Carta. We invented Human Rights for God's sake, we should be writing our own Bill of Rights and foisting it on the Europeans, Hahahaha! Let's see how they'd like it then! – Er...we've already done that, actually. – What? – Well, after we won the war, British legal experts did draft a Bill of Human Rights to help Europe sort itself out, you know, protect people from abuses of state power, that kind of thing. – Really? You sure? – Oh yes. – Well. That's good. What's it called? – The European Convention on Human Rights.

With thanks to Adam Fusco.



KN

The footage shot in this program has been edited such that in places it is shown in a different time sequence than actually shot.

What kind of a wimp am I?



- Why are we here? Who are we hiding from?
- The Fire-worshippers slaughter animals here



Unaccustomed as I am to writing down my thoughts, I can't think of a less cohesive collection of consciousness to collate and make permanent. This piece is going nowhere. Imagine the inane ramblings of a drug addled casualty.

Yeah.

Like that.

But any stream of consciousness needs to start somewhere. So it begins.

As I enter my fiftieth year on the planet, the same year I became a parent of a rather marvellous wee boy, my conclusion is - based on an above average awareness of history - that it's always been a bit rubbish here.

On Earth.

The bigger picture.

Like we could be doing it all a bit better.

It's not absolutely dreadful of course, although for some it actually is. Not natural disasters as such. Though it is a bit galling that the only place we can inhabit is so faulty that uncontrollable calamities occur and we die or lose limbs etc. (There's one a week these days - and always has been..... probably.)

It's more the man-made approach.

The world organised by committee.

By people who want to do that sort of thing.

Extroverts.

Or possibly sociopaths.

The kind of people that tell you fracking is safe. Or that trains are never too full. We all get seats. Hurrah for the establishment! Currently I'm being told by my betters that Owen Smith is the Left's only hope, and Jeremy Corbyn is Hard Left and unelectable.

I no longer know what any of this really means.

I would suggest that it is a moot point as we appear to have given up on the whole charade.

Brexit.

Voting to make things a bit more rubbish.

If you're generally comfortable, like most of us in the West, it's all utterly bearable because we have TV. (I heartily recommend watching daytime commercial television for developing a dialectical world-view.)

And beer. (I'm growing hops in my garden. I'm committed if nothing else.)

If you're one of those people that doesn't drink beer or watch TV, well good for you for having a more imaginative world outlook, and totally bucking the trend, and having evolved to a higher plane or something.

Yet with all your creative and soulful input, the world is still a bit rubbish.

For example, war seems to be incredibly popular still. Not only the stuff you see on TV (reported to you without context, as if such daily horror suddenly happened over "there", as that's what "they're" like - see what I did their, err there?), but all sorts of other wee skirmishes that are deemed less newsworthy 'cos they fall outside the news cycle. Or the wars themselves are too easy to understand, and we don't want stupid people to be too well informed about the unconscionable actions of the governments they voted for. I do like to watch the news: it keeps me in touch with my anger and allows me to swear and rant at the wife, who I can tell you ignores me totally, as she has known me long enough. But The News seems to be devoid of actual news these days. Less factual, and more subjective? Light Entertainment with no entertainment? Or have certain arguments been won forever, and no-one told me? We can't afford the NHS as it is. We can't afford not to replace Trident. History has ended because we're all happy consumers now. I want a new TV because the vertical hold on mine has gone.

And I will buy one.

Because it's all a bit rubbish and I need to shout at something.

Writing help in the sand saved my life

rescue ME



This much I know

(I AM TANK GREEN)

'ENGLISH PEOPLE ARE USED TO THINKING OF RACISM AS A BAD THING, BUT THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT IT IS ALWAYS HAPPENING SOMEWHERE ELSE. IT MAY GO ON IN PARTS OF AFRICA, AND IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT IT IS NOT AN ENGLISH PHENOMENON.'

ANN DUMMETT

A PORTRAIT OF ENGLISH RACISM, 1973

IN THE RUN UP TO THE EU REFERENDUM, I WATCHED THE DISCOURSE AND DEBATE WITH HORROR BECAUSE FOR THE LAST HUNDRED THOUSAND WORDS OF MY WRITING LIFE, I'VE BEEN WRITING ABOUT THE SENTIMENT OF THIS MOMENT. I'VE BEEN WRITING ABOUT RACISM. I'VE BEEN WRITING IN SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE I WANTED TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE, PEOPLE WHO I WANTED TO ALIGN MYSELF WITH. IT'S NOT MUCH IN MANY PEOPLE'S EYES, BUT FOR ME IT WAS A LOT: TO SPEND THREE YEARS OF MY LIFE TRYING TO PROVE A POINT. TRYING TO WRITE THE HISTORY OF RACISM INTO THE NATION'S HISTORICAL DNA SO THAT OTHER PEOPLE COULD POINT TO MY WORK AS EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE OF AN OFTEN DENIED TRUTH. ENGLAND IS DEEPLY RACIST, AND HERE SO, HOW SO, WHY SO. AND HERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO SPOKE ABOUT IT, FOUGHT AGAINST IT, DENIED IT, FACILITATED IT. MAYBE THEN ALL THOSE WELL-MEANING WHITE LIBERALS WHO TALK RESPECTFULLY OF THE US CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT CAN INSTEAD TURN THEIR GAZE TO US. THEN WE CAN START TO HAVE A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ABOUT 'RACE' AND RACISM THAT IS SOMETHING MORE THAN AN ARGUMENT ACROSS RACIALISED BORDERS. SO FOR THE LAST HUNDRED THOUSAND WORDS OF MY LIFE, I HAVE BEEN WRITING A STORY ABOUT SOME ORDINARY WHITE PEOPLE IN THE SIXTIES WHO THOUGHT WE HAD A PROBLEM WITH RACISM AND TRIED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. AND HERE'S ME, AN ORDINARY WHITE PERSON IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY TRYING TO CARRY ON THE CONVERSATION.

SO I KNEW WE'D VOTE OUT. I KNEW BECAUSE MY THESIS TOLD ME AS MUCH. I KNEW BECAUSE IN THE SIXTIES, THE RACISTS GOT THEIR WAY AND I KNEW THEY WOULD THIS TIME TOO. THE RACISTS OF THE SIXTIES CALLED FOR A REFERENDUM TO END 'IMMIGRATION' AND TO REPATRIATE EVERY SINGLE PERSON OF COLOUR ON THIS ISLAND. I KNOW THAT IF THEY HAD GOT THEIR REFERENDUM, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD THEIR WAY. INSTEAD THEY GOT A COMPROMISE: THE GOVERNMENT GAVE THEM, AND UNDERSTAND TOO THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO *THEM*, TWO IMMIGRATION ACTS THAT SEVERELY CURTAILED THE RIGHTS OF BLACK PEOPLE TO ENTER, WHAT HAD BEEN UNTIL THEN, THEIR COUNTRY. WE MIGHT NEVER HAVE HAD LEGAL SEGREGATION IN BRITAIN, BUT AS SOON AS THE DISTANCE CLOSED BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE BODIES, THEY PUT UP A BORDER AT THE EDGE OF THE NEWLY IMAGINED NATION TO KEEP AS MANY BLACK PEOPLE OUT AS WAS POSSIBLE. THAT'S WHERE OUR SEGREGATION WAS AND IS: AT THE BOUNDARY OF WHO CAN CLAIM TO BELONG.

AND NOW, NO REFERENDUM FOR REPATRIATION, BUT WHAT THE LEAVE VOTERS THOUGHT THEY VOTED FOR WAS TO STOP PEOPLE COMING. ANY PEOPLE. ALL PEOPLE. ALTHOUGH, I DON'T THINK IT WAS ABOUT EUROPEANS REALLY. I DON'T THINK THE PROBLEM WAS REALLY ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE WITHIN EUROPE'S BORDERS. THE NIGEL FARAGE/UKIP 'BREAKING POINT' POSTER DID NOT SHOW EUROPEANS BUT MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLE. THAT POSTER DEMONSTRATED THAT THE BREXITEERS WANTED OUT BECAUSE OF POROUS BORDERS AT THE EDGE OF THE CONTINENT, NOT WITHIN. EUROPE, AS SOME TINY PART OF ASIA, COULD NEVER 'HOLD OFF THE HORDES' THE WAY THIS RIDICULOUS LITTLE ISLAND AND ITS SEAS CAN. AND SO EACH AND EVERY LEAVE VOTE WAS A SPEAR ON THE COASTLINE, TURNING THE SEAS BLOODY. SOON, WHEN THEY'RE CERTAIN THAT WAY IS SILENT, THEY'LL TURN THE SPEARS INWARDS. OF THIS I AM SURE.

MAKE NO MISTAKE, THIS WAS A RACIST VOTE. IT WAS POWELL'S VOTE, THE LITTLE ENGLANDER VOTE, AND THAT IS WHO YOU ALIGNED YOURSELF WITH IF YOU VOTED OUT, NO MATTER YOUR OWN PERSONAL BACKGROUND AND POLITICS. IF YOU ABSTAINED YOU ALSO WENT WITH THEM, BECAUSE YOU ARE CLEVER ENOUGH TO HAVE SEEN THE WAY THE TIDE WAS FLOWING. YOU LEGITIMATED THAT VOTE. YES THE EU ISN'T PERFECT, YES IT IS NEOLIBERAL, AND YES IT IS FULL OF RACISTS (HELLO FRANCE), BUT WHAT DID YOU THINK? THAT VOTING OUT WOULD MAKE THE UK SOME KIND OF SOCIALIST UTOPIA? THAT IT WOULD SPIN US INTO A REVOLUTION? I'D LAUGH IF IT WASN'T SO FUCKING SERIOUS.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MUCH EFFECT LEAVING THE EU WILL HAVE ON OUR LIVES HERE ON THIS FRIGID LITTLE ISLAND. IN MANY WAYS I AM LESS CONCERNED WITH THAT THAN WITH THE SYMBOLISM OF THE MOMENT. WHAT KIND OF NARRATIVE IT HARD-WIRES INTO THE NATION'S PSYCHE. BREXIT IS ABOUT CLOSURE, REJECTION, ISOLATION, AND FEAR. IT IS ABOUT A PEOPLE WHO OPERATE FROM A SPACE OF SCARCITY. YET THE TRUTH IS THAT ALL LIFE IS VULNERABLE. ALL LIFE IS A PROCESS OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN BORDERS: BREATH, EATING, DRINKING, PHOTOBLOODYSYNTHESIS. TO DENY THAT IS TO EVENTUALLY STARVE AND DECAY INTO DEATH.

© CUS! 'Zine
September 2016
tankgreen.com/cus-zine/
twitter.com/cuszine