

WRECK

COVID-19 SPECIAL

05 2020



VOLUME
2

K C E R W

INTRODUCTION

These are unprecedented times seen across the U.K and most of the Globe, in this micro-issue of Wreck I want to explore both the positive and negative aspects of a nationwide lockdown. This volume will however be focusing on a more positive side of isolation as the the national and international news has become over-burdened with negative stories and scaremongering.

It seems that the contemporary roaring twenties has started with an epidemic, not the best start to a new decade but hopefully a time that brings the nation together again. On the back foot of Brexit and the general election Britain was divided in two, countless political attacks from both sides, news stories condemning party leaders, constant reminders we were no closer to a Brexit deal than when we started in 2016 and then a new deal that seemed to benefit no one.

Britain was a war zone for political ideology, no one was safe from a casual debate at the dinner table turning into a savage and brutal argument that split families. However, it seems that this epidemic has started to heal the gap in the nation, people staying home to protect others no matter their political agenda and to protect the country they live in. It's almost moving to see that this virus has humbled the nation into compassion and kindness for each other.

In this issue, I will be exploring the impact the virus has had on myself creatively and politically. While this pandemic has halted the political progress of our nation, it does not mean the problems have dissipated.



ACREDDITED TO

Exclusive Editor
Jack Winbow

Photographer
Jack Winbow

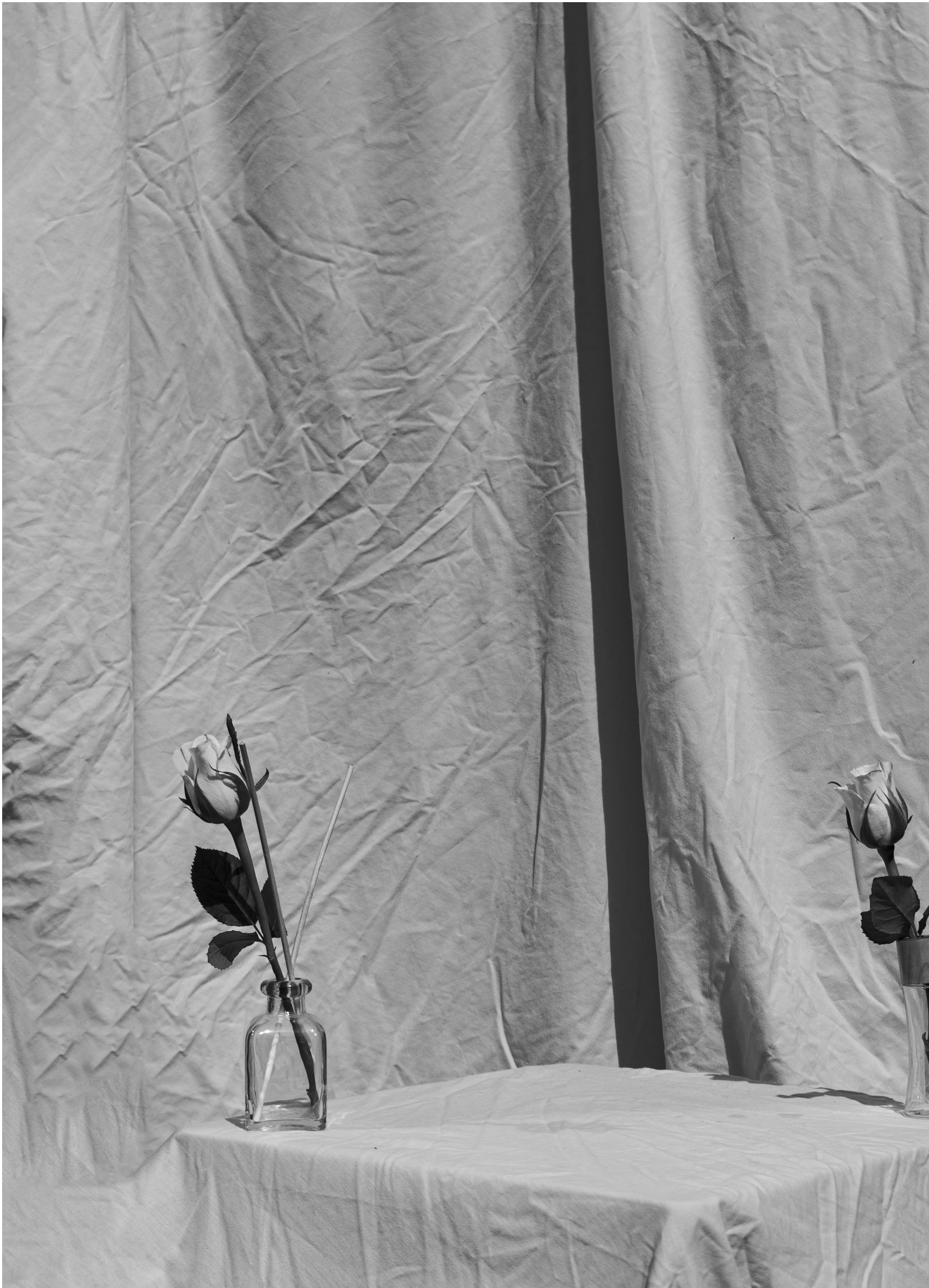
Authors
Jack Winbow

Model
Olivia Clapp

Publisher
Jack Winbow

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INNOVATION IN ISOLATION

While lockdown had told many exposing truths about ourselves and the incompetence of the government that runs our nation, isolation has the creative juices of many artists to flow and allow them to propose and create new and innovative ideas what could not have been available if “normal” life was in full swing. Myself and others have taken this idea of creation in confinement as a challenge rather than a set back. The restrictive dualities of isolation has let many of us to become creative in ways of set design in particularly in the artistic field of photography. Studios constructed from old bed linens and still life images created from what can be found around the house. For me, isolation has allowed me to explore aspects go photography that I have never taken part in.

My usual comfortable place in photography is in portraiture, in particularly fashion and editorial style portraiture but in isolation I have learnt to remove myself from my idle seat and move into realms of photography outside of my comfort zone. For example this still life image created by myself is a new step in an adventure of the various genres of photography. The image constructed from old bed linens and fruit found in the house and taken on a camera resting on top of a make shift tripod is my first step. This much more traditionalist style of image is not my usual forte but these lockdown restrictions seem to be ironically freeing as it has allowed me to be experimental in my photographic practice that I hope to take further in my work and this zine.

Furthermore isolation has not only allowed me to test my creative capabilities it has also allowed a mutual friend of mine to gain positive business in her independently run company ‘Nufinwstd’ or @nufinwstd on instagram. Much like the previous business promoted in my first issue of Wreck, Nufinwstd is a zero waste and ethical clothing business that reworks old pieces of clothing or material and makes them into new pieces that fit the fashion criteria of what’s in now. Due to the lockdown resulting in an influx of online shopping to major retailers it has also trickled down to smaller companies such as Nufinwstd receiving a larger quantity of orders. This has allowed the business to still gain revenue in a time when major businesses like John Lewis are struggling but has also allowed new and creative ways of making clothes that not only meet the fashion trends but also exceed them. As well as this the business owner has be

en making masks made from spare material when making the clothing to create masks and other PPE that they have been giving away for free to nurses and anyone who may need it. This small sign of compassion has been extremely moving that displays that kindness and caring qualities in people that are still happening in testing and troubling times. Which is much more than large billion dollar companies such as ASOS and Amazon that have been subjecting their staff to unsafe and unsanitary conditions to work in and little to no monetary contributions to the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic.







As well as lockdown allowing me to push my boundaries in terms of comfort zones, it has also allowed me to push my boundaries inside of my comfort zone. As someone who favours shooting different models, lockdown has been a challenge trying to shoot models outside of the household as the government has banned contact between people outside of a shared house. From this, new innovations from Vogue has created the 'facetime' shoot. I wanted to try this myself and these images are the result. Using the same idea of bed linens as a studio background, the lines created in the dress and background compliment each other well as well as the sun making the model glow in that of a renaissance painting. Technology has allowed me and other artists to shoot models externally, internally. Lockdown has become less of a barrier and more of a hurdle, with enough conviction anything seems to be possible.





Government Incompetance

“All in this together” is the new slogan announced by the government to inspire the nation to stay home in order to keep one another safe, yet this hasn’t seemed to work. People are still out together, visiting each other’s households, having parties and going about their daily lives as if a epidemic isn’t looming over their shoulders. It is selfishness and irresponsibility at its core, a clear lack of self awareness and compassion for others and it seems even our elected officials aren’t safe from it. Government Scientist Neil Ferguson was the latest to break quarantine when he let a woman visit him despite his party and daily conferences telling the public to stay home and protect others. The British COVID-19 advisor has broken the rules proposed and set by the government he helps to run. Thousands are dying and many more are critically ill as the U.K overtakes Italy and the rest of Europe in our death toll reaching over 32,000 at the time of writing, many more to follow I’m sure. Could this be purely down to the select few choosing to break quarantine or could it also be due to the lack of preventative measures taken by the government in the earliest of outbreaks. Our first case came in late January before the correct preventative measures of a full national lockdown on the 23rd of March, that’s nearly a full two months before the correct procedure was taken to ensure the safety of the general public. As well as this a devastating lack of PPE equipment to protect those on the front line, those being primarily nurses and doctors as well as Care home support workers, Police officers and Paramedics left many of those helping on the frontlines with little protection and in the lethal mercy of COVID-19. This has led to hundreds of needless deaths and a continuation of the spread of the virus. One of these deaths being Mary Agyeiwaa Agyapong, who worked on a general ward at Luton and Dunstable University Hospital for five years. She was a heavily pregnant nurse in her late term working on the frontline of the epidemic who died from the coronavirus and received an emergency C-section in order to save the baby. Agyapong made the ultimate sacrifice to protect those who she loved and the general public when her death could have been fully preventable if the government ran a competent process in order to protect the ones who are protecting us.

This gross negligence and incompetence by our conservative led government that encouraged the idea of ‘Herd immunity’ before backing out with their tail between their legs has led to thousands of deaths of mothers, fathers, daughters, sons and many more. This idea of ‘Herd Immunity’ directly affects minority and working class groups who predominately work in supermarkets, factories and the NHS frontline and shows the clear lack of compassion for those who don’t live in the 40% bracket. This government has shown their true colours in light of the epidemic and have proven that they only care for those who aren’t working class or more likely those who will vote for them. The predominantly white led upper class that would not be affected by the virus as they are capable to still earn money from working at home or having enough money stored in their offshore accounts to keep them happy seem to be immune. The black community is most affected in the U.K as they make up the majority of the ‘key workers’ workforce powering our country. This is due to the lack of economic opportunities that the black community receive leaving them stuck in a cycle of minimum wage jobs. It seems that our most vital jobs at this time are the underpaid professions. Its almost ironic that the people our country chose to exclude in our Brexit vote are the ones helping us the most. This isn’t fair, due to the institutional racism upheld by our government thousands have died helping us. The furlough pay given by the government hasn’t been enough to sustain whole families either. This is clearly seen in the death of Agyapong leaving a motherless child in a world and a government that seems to be ungrateful for her mother’s sacrifice to protect others. The question rises, Why was she working so late in her pregnancy ? It was due to her minimal furlough payment and need to help as the same government a couple years before had grossly under funded the NHS resulting in shortages of nurses and equipment . She had to work to sustain her family, unborn child and to help combat the large influx of COVID-19 cases that had hit our hospitals. The serious lack of PPE equipment couldn’t allow her to protect herself appropriately while she worked to pay the bills that were still coming in despite her furlough payment as the government had chosen not to lift those bills either. Mary Agyeiwaa Agyapong is one of many tragic stories that have been told over the course of this pandemic and I’m sure she won’t be the last. This pandemic has shown the true intent and absolute incompetence of the government that runs our country. Thousands have died and unfortunately, more are to come.

WRECK

OUTRO

Thank you for reading this mini issue of Wreck, hopefully once the epidemic starts to be on the steady decline and we are allowed to see each other again I can create more volumes on this zine focusing on different stories other than this one. I hope that the deaths also decline as well as new cases and people stay home to protect each other. The present is about caring for each other in hope for a better future, check on your friends and family who are isolating alone and STAY HOME !!



MY RECK



