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## Introduction

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I suppose all writing is about that moment of our journey where we are challenged to find our way past an obstacle; a sudden challenge that gives us reason to search our infant gills for more oxygen, the feeling of being “it” in a game of tag on the playground between the see-saw and slide of our youth. The following works give a picture of us jumping over, burrowing under, sliding beside, cutting through, and even sitting contemplatively on top of the problem. I am reminded of watching my dog Spot when I was young chasing our Siamese cat, Happy, and I wondered what he would do if he caught her? He finally did and having achieved his goal, he had not thought beyond it; in his ignorance, he simply sat on top of the cat for a bit, then let her go. Join this collective/individual journey of artists jumping bravely across the synaptic gap of creative blocks and challenges to help question what it is to be brave enough to face being human, or what a cuckoo does inside the cuckoo clock when he’s not working, or why chasing the proverbial cat is sometimes more rewarding than catching it.

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Editor of *Forces* Literary Journal

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