



Conquering Animal Sound

'Talking Shapes'

Conquering Animal Sound announce brand new EP, *Talking Shapes: limited 12"*, with artwork by Tom Varley.

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Glasgow electronic shape-shifters Conquering Animal Sound are set to release their first new material in 18 months. The limited edition 12" *Talking Shapes* EP sees co-songwriters and co-producers Anneke Kampman and James Scott explore musical languages, gender, genetic coding and *The Beautiful Game*. Written and recorded at home and within Glasgow's Kinning Park Studio / Community Complex, *Talking Shapes* combines synthetic electronics with organic sounds, drawn from myriad instruments and effects, to create a living, breathing body of work.

Talking Shapes progresses the electronic and rhythmic ideas explored by the duo throughout their excellent second album (and Chemikal debut) *On Floating Bodies* (2013) and its Scottish Album of the Year Award nominated predecessor, *Kammerspiel* (2011). But it is more open and freer-flowing, revoking traditional verse / chorus structures in favour of letting the duo's music and ideas develop, produce and speak for themselves. The title reflects this ethos – the *Talking Shapes* refer to letters – as Kampman explains. "The EP is an exploration of language and form. Music is a material language that can be used to explore ideas that needn't be presented in a linear and rational way."

'Puskas', set the EP's aesthetic tone, says Scott. "'Puskas' is one of the most immediately-formed things we've written. The structure, lyrics and melody came together very quickly, with all parts influencing each other." A nod to Hungarian football legend Ferenc Puskas, the song explores the ways in which we attach and find meaning in abstract concepts, through the framework of *The Beautiful Game*. Kampman explains: "I wanted to use Puskas, and football generally, as a reference point within the lyrics, as a way to loosely discuss how we construct meaning around form – be that musical idioms, visual signifiers, theory within political rhetoric. But also, I find football very beautiful to watch. For me, the arcs and trajectories of the ball reflect musical shapes and patterns."

Kampman and Scott's artistic partnership is avidly equal and democratic, and there is often a feminist undercurrent in their work, such as in 'Puskas', as Kampman notes. "There's a subtle feminist dimension to this track. I used football references as a way of liberating myself instruction. Football is a game; it has rules. Gender is also a game; it also has rules. I'm eager to break out of patterns that people fall into within music, specifically relating to gender. Women almost always have submissive roles in music practice, especially in the pop music industry. They tend to be passive when it comes to taking control of certain aspects of music creation, and it has always been important to Jamie and I that it's a conversation; an equal process."

The rest of the EP is equally challenging, fascinating and sublime. 'HTR1A' explores notions of false awakenings, inter-subjectivity and genetic coding – and testifies to the duo's growing desire to simplify and refine their music, says Scott. "We were conscious of not over-complicating the new EP. Our music can be very layered and dense, which I like, but there was effort on both our parts to write strong material, and let the most important sounds and textures stand for themselves. In the first half of 'HTR1A' especially, I believe we've achieved that."

Talking Shapes is a stand-alone release that's set to bridge the duo's previous remarkable work, and their forthcoming, forward-looking album, due for release next year.

***Talking Shapes* tracklist: The Next Day / HTR1A / Puskas / A Solid Door**

Live dates:

3rd October – Glasgow – Stereo
4th October – Edinburgh – Summerhall
17th October – Sunderland – Independent
19th October – Manchester – Kraak (part of A Carefully Planned Festival)
20th October – York – Basement
23rd October – London – Seabright Arms
24th October – Bristol – Cube Cinema

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