



Ex-Vöid In Love Again

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LP / CD / digital



Ex-Vöid - featuring Lan McArdle (Joanna Gruesome, Lanny) and Owen Williams (The Tubs) - return with their second LP: *In Love Again*. Joined by Laurie Foster (bass) and George Rothman (drums), the record sees the band flourish from a chaotic power punk group into a fully fledged pop behemoth. Taking in elements of shoegaze (*Pinhead*), country (*Outline*), 90s indie rock (*In Love Again*) and pretty much the entire history of guitar music, *In Love Again* reveals McArdle and Williams to be true students of perfect pop.

The pair have been collaborating for a decade now, having played in Joanna Gruesome as teenagers, and *In Love Again* sees them both building on the sound they've honed together and embracing a new, unapologetic attitude towards songcraft. "We wanted to stop being cringed out by the idea of writing pop music. We're a bit older now and not trying to remind everyone we come from hardcore/DIY scenes. It's still there in our DNA but we wanted to see what might happen if we write the biggest bangers possible" says Williams. Backed by the tight-yet-raucous rhythm section of Foster and Rothman, *In Love Again* delivers as a huge pop album without sacrificing any of the hardcore propulsion that characterised the band's first album.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the Ex-Vöid sound is the sublime blend of McArdle and Williams' vocals: close, folk-indebted harmonies which guide the listener through an onslaught of hooks. And while this is utilised to full effect on *In Love Again*, the album also sees McArdle make full use of their vocal range. Tunes like *July* and *Sara* reveal a set of pipes and knack for chorus-writing rarely heard in today's indie scene. In keeping with their new sound, McArdle and Williams have taken a more autobiographical, nuanced approach to lyric writing this time around, a move influenced by touring with Waxahatchee. (The band also cover *Lonely Girls* by Lucinda Williams - one of Katie Crutchfield's heroes). The hints of folk and country embedded in the tunes also stretch to this new lyrical approach- storytelling and heartbreak abound.

This was helped by the fact both members had recently experienced a breakup while writing the album. "Obviously a super catastrophic breakup is useful to have," McArdle says, "It means I can still be self-deprecating and not super sincere. But also be like: I'm in pain." Williams agrees: "It makes you go mental and while this is a cliché - it's definitely good for the band. And it's interesting to compare, say, my breakup song *Down The Drain* to Lan's *July*, because it's two quite different perspectives but we're each there on each other's songs, harmonising or ripping guitar solos."

The band's first LP, *Bigger Than Before*, received positive coverage in Pitchfork, SPIN, Stereogum and others. It received airtime on BBC Radio 6, and saw the band support/tour with acts such as Waxahatchee, Speedy Ortiz and Alvvays. Williams also fronts The Tubs - whose 2023 debut saw them touring internationally and receiving plaudits from Pitchfork, The Guardian and Iggy Pop. Previous to forming Ex-Vöid, Williams and McArdle played in Joanna Gruesome who toured the US with bands like Speedy Ortiz and Perfect Pussy, were b-listed by BBC 6 music several times and won the Welsh Music Prize. Williams and McArdle are part of the Gob Nation collective - the London-based network of bands, writers and promoters who were recently profiled in The Guardian.

Tracklisting

- A1 Swansea
- A2 In Love Again
- A3 July
- A4 Nightmare
- A5 Pinhead

- B1 Lonely Girls
- B2 Sara
- B3 Strange Insinuation
- B4 Down The Drain
- B5 Outline

Promotion

Sean Newsham
+49(0)40-88166663
sean@tapeterecords.com
www.tapeterecords.com

TR586

LP 264081
4015698790047
CD 264082
4015698574845

