

After 13 previous EPs and a full-length album, Fort Collins, Colorado, project Nadalands explores surprising new sonic territory with The Days of Awe LP.

The latter stages of the pandemic isolated Nadalands songwriter John Lindenbaum (The Lonelyhearts, Rust Belt Music, The Distances) in a basement of guitar pedals, resulting in a striking palate of new sounds. Along with longtime collaborators Benjamin Buttice (Sour Boy, Bitter Girl) and Alexis Stevens, Lindenbaum returned to the 12-string acoustic guitar, intricate electronic drums, and multilayered vocals that define the entire Nadalands catalog. However, this new album also includes ominous drones, post-rock crescendos, haunting feedback, richly textured noise, and searing electric guitar leads. On these songs, tones of Neil Young, Massive Attack, Sharon Van Etten, and the Mountain Goats mingle with those of Mogwai, Just Mustard, Low, IDLES, and Porridge Radio.

Lyrically, these ten songs address the usual Nadalands topics: the long shadow of unexpected death, theoretical physics, climate disasters, doomed social movements, the hidden ravages of war, and fraught love. Characters range from an Oregon fisherman ("It Created Quite the Stir") to a demonic assassin ("Stolen Minivan with Romney 2012 Bumper Sticker") to a grieving friend in an industrial Denver suburb ("The Five Stages of Petroleum Processing). Dense wordplay, biting cynicism, gritty narratives, and magical realism marry Latin American literary fiction and 90s hiphop in the context of the contemporary American West. This stylistic fusion of James McMurtry, Pusha T, Neutral Milk Hotel, and Stormzy yields a poignant reflection on loss. These songs convey a sense of awe - of deities, carcinogenic refineries, quantum entanglement, rising seas, military aircraft, the natural world, the ache of longing - and try to salvage moments of joy amidst the wreckage.

The Days of Awe LP will be released via all major streaming services on September 29, 2023.

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