

BEACON

Press text

Brooklyn duo Beacon explore the dark side of sweet melody with a sound that's as seductive as it is subtly discomfiting. The duo Thomas Mullarney III and Jacob Gossett met at Brooklyn's Pratt Institute, where they were studying sculpture and painting respectively. They fuse the deceptively sweet melodies of R&B with an intoxicating undercurrent of darkness, drawing on influence as disparate as Warps back catalogue and Underworld. The duo's first release, the *No Body* EP, consisted of four songs that deftly walked the line between seductive and sinister. The production took as much from electronic music as it did from R&B and hip hop, setting Mullarney's vocals against backdrops that define as much of the songs' atmosphere as do the words themselves. That sound was deepened and expanded on 2013's *The Ways We Separate*, a collection of songs about human relationships set to flickering electronics and driven by Mullarney's soft, aching vocals. *Separate* was the perfect illustration of Beacon's dual nature: electronics pulsed and blinked, but Mullarney's silky, whispering vocals made every song sound like synthetic soul.

Where *The Ways We Separate* was about space—specifically, the space between people—*Escapements* is about time. The title is taken from clock mechanics; escapements are timekeeping regulators designed to transfer energy at a constant pace. "I was attracted to this concept because of the entropy it implies," Mullarney explains. "Friction and changes in amplitude over time mean every escapement, no matter how well crafted, will lose its accuracy and effectively slow down time via its own decay."

The songs on *Escapements* demonstrate a new depth and complexity: "Backbone" is a song that operates in discrete movements—soft dance one moment, haunting elegy the next. The title track lays harplike electronics over a stuttering rhythm track, and "Cure" pops and vibrates endlessly, its jittery and scrambling production the perfect counterpoint to Mullarney's sighing voice. I hope this record proves our restlessness and shows that we really aren't content to have only one approach to creating music," says Mullarney. Gossett agrees. "When you don't give yourself a specific place to land you never really miss," he says. "We just tried to trust ourselves and not put limitations on what this record was supposed to be. In that sense, it's exactly the record we were meant to make."

<http://beacon.bandcamp.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/beaconband>

<http://soundcloud.com/beaconmusicnyc>

<https://twitter.com/beaconband>

<http://www.beaconband.nyc/>

<http://ghostly.com/artists/beacon>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TahTcD_3AFs "Drive"

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSEIEdRo02Q "IM U"

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07114rd> "IM U" part of the Bob Moses BBC playlist