

A British ex-pat and former political journalist, Anika has collaborated with BEAK>, Tricky and released two albums with Mexico City's Exploded View to great acclaim. The single *Change* tackles personal growth as well as wider issues and grapples with eternal questions as to whether one can ever truly change.

It has been 11 years since the release of her last solo album, 2010 cult-favourite *Anika*; she suddenly found herself with a lot to say. "This album had been planned for a little while and the circumstances of its inception were quite different to what had been expected. This coloured the album quite significantly. The lyrics were all written there on the spot. It's a vomit of emotions, anxieties, empowerment, and of thoughts like—How can this go on? How can we go on?"

The intimacy of its creation and a palpable sense of global anxiety are seemingly baked into the DNA of *Change*. Spread across nine tracks, the central feeling of the record is one of heightened frustration buoyed by guarded optimism. The songs offer skittering, austere electronic backdrops reminiscent of classic Broadcast records or High Scores-era Boards of Canada, playing them against Anika's remarkable voice—Nico-esque, beautifully plaintive, and—in regards to the record's subject matter—totally resolute. Incantatory tracks like "Naysayer" and "Never Coming Back" are both a call to arms and a warning. "Never Coming Back" was written after reading Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*," she explains.

"I was living in the old East countryside outside of Berlin, where there seemed to be no shortage of birds. Apparently their numbers have dropped significantly, but it is one of these changes that we never really stop and notice. We take things for granted, until it's too late. With all this other noise going on, care for the environment has quickly been moved to the back-burner. So long as we get what we want NOW and on demand, who cares about whether we are taking care of the future?"

Despite the subject matter and the circumstances around its creation, *Change* itself is ultimately a treatise on optimism. The title track presents the album's message writ large: I think we can change, we all have things to learn, about ourselves and about each other. To end the record on such a sanguine note might be one of *Change*'s most revolutionary gestures. "Another book that affected the brain of this album was Hannah Arendt's *The Banality of Evil*," explains Anika. "In the context of the Trump era, it was interesting to see how 'evil' was put on trial after his downfall. When evil loses, how is it put on trial? How do those who actually held the hand of evil during the evil, sneak into the seat of judge and Jury during the trial, booing with the crowd as if they had no involvement and were not cashing in on the evil's wild rampage. How are all the evils pinned on that one individual as a way to pardon a whole society that partook in that evil? I suppose this is what *Change* is about, setting out the hope that we can change, that even those who cheered on the evil can ultimately change their ways."