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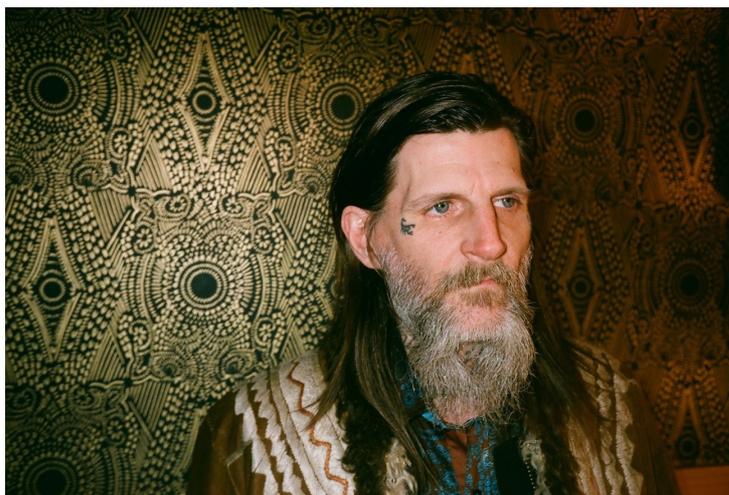
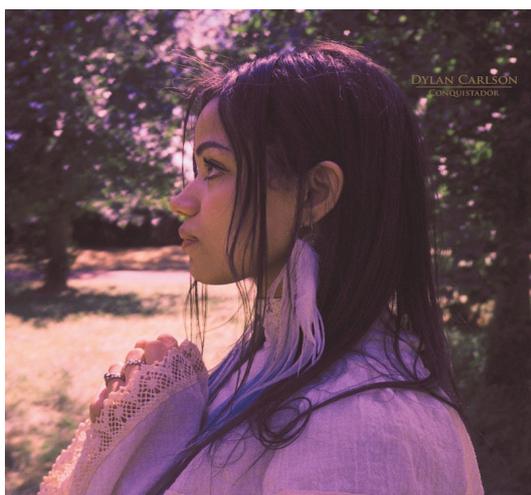
ARTIST – DYLAN CARLSON

TITLE – CONQUISTADOR

FORMAT – CD/LP/DL

LABEL – SARGENT HOUSE

RELEASE DATE: 27/04/2018



"I guess what ties this all together—all my musical projects and my life in general—is the idea of the quest, that search for new horizons and something unnamable and possibly unreachable," **Dylan Carlson** says regarding the theme behind his solo album **Conquistador**.

Carlson's musical explorations can be traced back to his pioneering work with the minimalist ensemble **Earth**—from the groundbreaking drone metal of *Earth 2* to the ominous instrumental twang of *Hex; Or Printing in the Infernal Method*. Untethered from the collaborative nature of the band, Carlson veered away from American music and motifs and dug into English folklore and song traditions for his solo work under the moniker of *drcarlsonalbion*. For his first full-length as the solo artist Dylan Carlson, the guitarist returns west.

In many ways, *Conquistador* harkens back to *Hex*. Whereas the *Earth* album set out to score the historical fiction of Cormac McCarthy's examination of white settlers' horrific campaign against Native Americans in *Blood Meridian*, *Conquistador* bypasses the intermediary narrative of a novelist. "This is another imaginary western," Carlson explains, "based on the real story of a conquistador and his Moorish servant in what was then the northernmost regions of Mexico, but is now the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and Texas. They were gone for twenty years and had many adventures before making it back to the Gulf of Mexico and returning to Mexico City and, eventually, Spain." Muses aside, there is an analogous timbre, pace, and pentatonic aura between Carlson's latest offering and *Hex*. But the reductionist principles that have always driven Carlson's work play an even larger role on *Conquistador*, with his expansive drones and austere guitar work saturating the sonic field while freed from the lock step of a rhythm section. Carlson has long been heralded as a master of minimalism, and this full-length demonstrates his ability to craft compelling symphonic compositions while exercising extreme musical frugality.

Conquistador was recorded at **God City Studios** with **Kurt Ballou** during a week long break in Carlson's solo tour of the East Coast of the US in May 2016. The material had been gestating for several months, and Carlson viewed the session as an opportunity to create music between *Earth* albums as well as a chance to collaborate with esteemed solo artist **Emma Ruth Rundle**, who contributed baritone and slide guitar, and his wife **Holly Carlson**, who contributed percussion and whose picture graces the cover of the album. "I view every studio experience as unique, as everything is always different, from gear to people to time and place," Carlson says of the recording process. "I have to say I got some of my favourite guitar 'tones' on this album, especially on 'Reaching the Gulf.'" And indeed, anyone that's basked in the discographies of *Earth* and *drcarlsonalbion* will undoubtedly be enamoured with the lush sepia-toned vistas of *Conquistador*.

For album artwork, band photos and more visit: <https://sargenthouse.com/dylan-carlson>
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