



# Markus Mehr – ‘Duck Became Swan’



**Augsburg, Germany; Perth, Western Australia; 10 October 2012.** Hidden Shoal Recordings is proud to announce the release of ‘Duck Became Swan’, the new single by German experimental ambient artist Markus Mehr, taken from his latest album *On*, along with its accompanying video by Stefanie Sixt.

‘Duck Became Swan’ is perhaps one of the most expansive and moving pieces on Markus Mehr’s new album *On*. Across nine mesmerising minutes, the track masterfully mutates between two wildly different musical environments. The heavy distortion that intermittently tears through at the opening of the track gradually gives way to a heartstoppingly beautiful orchestral refrain and open-ended guitar figure, before being subsumed again into fizzing, electric chaos.

The accompanying video, created by visual artist Stefanie Sixt, is like a hypnotic animated re-imagining of the cover of Joy Division’s *Unknown Pleasures*, an electric monochrome dream/nightmare that vibrates with life in synch with the track’s ecstatic convulsions. ‘Duck Became Swan’ continues Mehr’s ongoing exploration of texture versus melody. *On*’s eight diverse tracks employ samples, field recordings and slathers of Mehr’s trademark distorted drones.

*On* is preceded by *In*, the first part of the triptych, comprising two monumental tracks, ‘Komo’ and ‘Ostinato’, each of which clocks in at around 25 minutes, circling around and building upon hypnotic instrumental motifs. *Off*, released on 24 January 2013, includes the most epic piece yet, ‘Transit’, which clocks in at 49 minutes and will be performed live in collaboration with video artist Stefanie Sixt, who created the video to Mehr’s single ‘Cousteau’.

*“moments of remarkable beauty occur... covers a wide range of experimental ground” – textura on On*

*“one of the best releases so far this year and one which will absolutely be appreciated by fans of abstract ambient music and soundscapes” – Petal on In*

*“In this blissful wanderlust Mehr succeeds in spades creating a completely engrossing, engaging and all together reliable album full of the most powerful ambient-drone tracks this year” – Tome to the Weather Machine on Lava*

Based in Augsburg, south Germany, Markus Mehr’s musical journey began with the guitar. He grew up listening to metal and prog rock, before turning his ears to darker sounds and ethereal, experimental pop. After recording and touring with several bands, he struck out on his own with the home studio project Aroma. Markus now works under his own name, recording at his home studio using guitars and synths, plus any noise-making accoutrements at hand – electric shavers, ventilators, electric tooth brushes and field recordings – all processed and distorted to create a gorgeous wall of sound.

‘Duck Became Swan’ is available for free download from the Hidden Shoal Store. It is taken from the recently released album *On*, out now on CD and digital through Hidden Shoal Recordings.

Hidden Shoal Recordings is an Australia-based independent music label that has earned a reputation for releasing exciting and engaging new independent music that is not bound by genre or style. Hidden Shoal Recordings has been chosen as one of *Textura* magazine’s favourite labels, has been dubbed “This generation’s 4AD” by prominent New York radio host DJ Mojo, and has been described by The Mountain Goats’ frontman John Darnielle as “one of the great wonders of our age”.

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