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Two Gallants Interview

"We do like the songs to become what they want. Just like children they deserve the space to become themselves."

Two Gallants' new LP 'What The Toll Tells' is quite simple staggering. A young duo from San Francisco who write the most spellbinding and yet brutal tales of hard-living and youthful melodrama; drawing them out across a framework of finger-picked guitars and savage drums for just short of 70 jaw-dropping minutes, Two Gallants are the kind of band you wait ten years for.

The Downloader recently spoke to Tyson Vogel as they prepared to head to the UK for a long-anticipated low-key headlining tour this February. He was kind enough to answer our questions...

Tell us a little bit about Two Gallants. Where do you guys find your inspiration? Music, art, literature - does it all affect the way you express yourselves musically?

I don't really believe in inspiration. I think the word is abused. Everything has its effect. But I do understand what the implication is.

What's the thinking behind such a lean set-up? Do you like the idea of letting your songs 'breathe' or is there a simpler idea behind it?

No we just play the way we do cause nobody ever told us to do otherwise. We do like the songs to become what they want. Just like children they deserve the space to become themselves. All we have the right or duty to do is to keep them from feeling ignored.

'What The Toll Tells' is a genuine breath of creative fresh air. Has it always been your intention to write songs so detached from much of mainstream rock music?

No. we have never had any intentions. I think people can tell that if they listen closely. All we do is what we know how to do. If everyone else was doing the exact same thing as us we would probably just keep on allowing our sound to go where it will. Music is animated enough to go where it wants.

Much has been written about the length of the songs on 'What The Toll Tells', is it a resolute expression of total artistic control or something a lot less contrived and a lot more creative?

Yeah I suppose. The songs are long. Hopefully people can handle it. If not we won't be too damaged. They are only long because they didn't want to be short. It just happened that way. Not sure if it is a good thing or not.

Can you pick out your personal high point from 'What The Toll Tells' and explain precisely why you hold it so close to your heart.

Well. I suppose 'Waves of Grain' is a pretty significant song to me. That one in particular took a long time to really understand what was happening while I was writing the words. It was rather out of my control. I think I am pretty happy with how that one ended up. But 'Some Slender Rest' means more to me then probably any other song on the record. It just has a bit more of my self in it than any song I've ever written.

Do you think your sound translates well to a British audience?

It seems that most people over there have been very receptive to our sound. I don't know why but it is nice to feel appreciated in a foreign land.

Tell us a little bit about your relationship with Saddle Creek? It must be an artistic dream to share a roster with the likes of

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Cursive, Maria Taylor, Bright Eyes, Now It's Overhead.

Yeah. Everyone seems pretty good. We don't really know all of the bands work but we are real honoured to be among them. The label has been very kind to us.

Who do Two Gallants regard as their creative peers? Are there any bands from San Francisco that the esteemed readership of The Downloader should be checking out?

The answer to these two questions are kind of one and the same. Trainwreck Riders are a band from San Francisco who we love and play with all the time. They are good friends of ours. There's also Holy Ghost Revival from Seattle and Wires on Fire from L.A. those are just a few of the bands that we feel close to.