



THOMAS & SAMPSON

WHEN THE LOWER RESEMBLES THE HIGHER...

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The debut album by Thomas & Sampson, *When the Lower Resembles the Higher There Will Be Harmony Upon Reflection*, is comprised of a series of twelve non-traditional love songs. They blend concrete and abstract images together in an effort to capture both the universal and subjective experiences and nuances of a relationship. At times the narrator is clearly frustrated, angry, or even violent, but this energy is tempered with the fragile tenderness of a love that seems to be perpetually dying and reborn. With each new birth, the love, the voice, and the personality that shines through in the songs, is stronger and more distinct.

Most of the music is sparse, existing primarily as a background to support the thoughts and images presented in the lyrics. While digesting each new song, it's hard to tell if they're giving us the nourishing placenta or the wailing newborn itself. Whatever it is, it's sticky, warm, and wiggly and full of life. Many of the tracks abound with falsetto hooks that strike like charmed cobras who's master left the room mid-song. As the venom sinks in, our corpuscles give in to the infectious sentiments of love and longing.

It's easy to be seduced by the fantastic world created in these songs. Often, they use the familiar to lead us to the utterly alien, and remind us of our attraction to narratives of incomplete and disjointed love affairs without happy endings. However, far from being remorseful or melancholy, these are clearly songs of intense joy. Each celebrates the here and now, recognizing that each moment is comprised of parts of an ever-evolving past, present, and future. The here and now for Thomas & Sampson is many things at once: a happy dance, love-energy, a brooding la-la band, sour apples, singing in church, embarrassing nakedness, cold indifference, desperate longing, spastic vitality, and debilitating anxiety, all intertwined, overlapping, colliding, being fed by and slowly unraveled by a strange and exciting new love.



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