



L O W E R
R I V E R

MICHAEL A. MULLER • LOWER RIVER

WORLDWIDE RELEASE OCTOBER 25, 2019
BEACON SOUND (LP)
1631 RECORDINGS (DIGITAL)

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BEACON
\\ SOUND

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Introducing Lower River, the debut solo album by Balmorhea co-founder Michael A. Muller, released October 25 by Beacon Sound and 1631 Recordings.

Conceptually, Lower River explores the place where time, space, and self are occluded — a field of pure energy and creation similar to ‘the flow’ or zen state where ideas stream without impediment. Inspired by Muller’s own remote travels throughout the US and Europe and the personal exploration of a meditative practice, it’s a sonic exploration of what it means to deeply listen versus to merely hear, to immerse oneself in navigating the subconscious plane of pure energy and deep, immersive creativity.

In 2006, multi-instrumentalist Muller co-founded the Austin-based ensemble Balmorhea; over the last 13 years he has co-led the group through six full-length records, numerous EPs, global tours, and original scores and worldwide track placements.

Lower River is Muller’s debut solo full-length release, which began as a sound experiment in 2018 spanning from the isolated Oregon coast to rural Southern Italy and remote fishing villages in the South of France. With a tape recorder in hand, Muller chronicled his journeys through sound, contemplating along the way what it means to deeply listen amid a modern narrative underwritten by distraction. Merging his field recordings with original compositions recorded in his home studio in Austin, Lower River is a sonic venture into other worlds and into the depths of one’s own mind; a study in engaging with sounds that don’t easily slot into pre-existing notions of what an album ‘ought’ to be.

The final composition includes works by avant bass clarinetist Jonathan Sielaff (of Golden Retriever), vocals by Heather Woods Broderick (known for work with Sharon Van Etten & Efterklang), and abstract double bass and cello by Balmorhea’s Sam Pankey and Elan Green, respectively. The material was mastered by Rafael Anton Irisarri at Black Knoll Studio in Upstate New York, with the album cover art made by renowned Dutch photographer Awoiska Van Der Molen.

The album is accompanied by a sensorially rich counterpart; in lieu of performing traditional shows, Muller has curated an touring exhibit of interdisciplinary work to debut Lower River through Fall 2019, comprised of video installations and interactive audio experiences. The cornerstone amid this series of one-off events is a film for the single ‘Fixed Shadow,’ directed by Andrew Gallo and starring Marc Menchaca (Ozark, Black Mirror) and shot in a single continuous take on an Arri Alexa. The film will premiere in conjunction with the corresponding audio for the lead single ‘Fixed Shadow’ backed with a reworked version of the track by Bing & Ruth’s David Moore.

LOWER RIVER EXHIBIT DATES

OCTOBER 20	FVF FRIENDSPACE	BERLIN
OCTOBER 25	MASS GALLERY	AUSTIN
OCTOBER 31	300 S. KELLY	MARFA
NOVEMBER 2	PERALTA	SANTA FE
NOVEMBER 8	BEACON SOUND	PORTLAND
NOVEMBER 9	ALCHEMY WORKS	LOS ANGELES