

**NY ON** SPRING PREVIEW!

the vampire diaries' **nina dobrev** reveals all

first look! **175**

spring trends: wild west, cruise couture, super sport style

sweet tart **katy perry's** beauty secrets

love

+ **daniel radcliffe**

pop goes the world: chairlift islands and more!

# CULTURE CLUB

XTAPE: **islands**



**ready prior & lara seay**  
THE GREY HUNTER  
A new reggae sound...  
The song will also be on the album...  
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**nick waterhouse**  
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**pl kenny**  
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**ART ATTACK!**  
**dasha shishkin**  
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**YOUR SELECTION OF REPRESENTATION INTERNATIONAL**  
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**IS THIS GENERATION MAKING POLITICIZED WORK?**



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**love  
struck**

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# CULTURE CLUB

edited by mallory rice

## XTAPE: islands



A year ago, upon relocating from New York to Los Angeles after a breakup, Islands lead singer Nick Thorburn sat down at a piano and began to write about it (on Valentine's Day). What resulted is the band's fourth LP, *A Sleep & A Forgetting* (due out on February 14th, naturally), which is a strikingly honest and poignant turn from their characteristic peculiar, light-hearted sound. Here, Thorburn shares a mix of his favorite tracks, new and old.

**kate & anna mcgarrigle**

"HEART LIKE A WHEEL"

These sisters from Montreal bring the heartbreak hard with this song: "Some say the heart is just like a wheel/ When you bend it, you can't mend it/ And my love for you is like a sinking ship/ And my heart is like that ship out in mid-ocean."

**maddy prior & june tabor**

"THE GREY FUNNEL LINE"

This is an old traditional sea shanty written by Cyril Tawney. The lyrics weave a beautiful narrative of a young, British navy man out at sea, longing to return home.

**melanie**

"WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO MY SONG MA"

This song will play at my funeral. It's a touch grim and a bit odd.

**the magic**

"MISTER HOLLYWOOD"

The Magic opened for us in '08 and impressed me so much that I fired my band and invited them to join.

**max richter**

"THE TWINS (PRAGUE)"

Max Richter does a lot of experimental music, from incorporating narration by people like Tilda Swinton and Robert Wyatt to making ringtones. This track is fairly straightforward classical piano; I could listen to it on repeat endlessly.

**jim guthrie**

"PROBLEM WITH SOLUTIONS"

I'll put this song on every list of favorite songs I ever write for as long as I live. It contains some of the most profoundly striking lyrics I've ever heard and has the most satisfying musical churn.

**nick waterhouse**

"SOME PLACE"

This guy is new, and this song is one of the strongest things I've heard in the last few years.

**pj harvey**

"IN THE DARK PLACES"

Every song on *Let England Shake* is rock solid, so my selection from this album could be interchangeable. I'll settle on this song—a restrained and uncompromising epic.

**fat tony**

"HOME"

For a complete shift in tone, we land on Houston's Fat Tony. This is a hilarious and light retelling of a missed opportunity in getting to bed at a reasonable hour and all the pitfalls that come with staying out late.

**anika**

"TERRY"

Seemingly out of nowhere, a war journalist well into her career decided to hook up with Geoff Barrow (Portishead) and his band Beak>. This stand-out has a glorious stereophonic moment when, two-thirds of the way in, the rollicking piano enters, smearing across the left and right channels and elevating the fidelity to just the right amount.

## ART ATTACK:

### dasha shishkin

Dasha Shishkin is a maker of surprising and explosive things. The Russian-born, Brooklyn-based artist weaves a world of sinuous lines, kaleidoscopic colors, and psychedelic imagery. From large-scale wall drawings produced in situ to tiny etchings, her work vacillates between figuration and abstraction.

Since completing her MFA at Columbia in 2006, Shishkin has shown her work extensively and is present in collections, from MoMA in New York City to the Art Institute of Chicago. Currently preparing her first solo museum show, opening at the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati next month, she's locked into her intuitive, organic working process.

"It becomes like an exquisite corpse game where someone else—the material—is suggesting something to me," says Shishkin, of the trigger for her new work. Though grounded in figuration, she avoids any idea of

narrative: suggestion and open-endedness are key.

The ideas at play in the making of Shishkin's work only become apparent to her once a show is hung. "Whatever is obsessing me is not only on the surface of my mind but also something subconsciously present and bothersome," she says. Shishkin's work has been compared to that of Matisse, Egon Schiele, and Marcel Dzama—artists for whom considerations of form are intrinsically weighted by intense human emotion. Equally, though, her process brings to mind artists including Yayoi Kusama, for whom abstract form itself takes on a life of its own, one steeped in the artist's inner turmoil. "Often a motif—say a circle—will keep reappearing and it becomes like an obsessive-compulsive thing," she says. "It isn't always a conscious decision to work with certain imagery; it's more like something you have to get out of your system."

DALE BERNING



## Q&A:

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## OBJECT OF BEAUTY:

**inez van lamsweerde/vinoodh matadin: pretty much everything (TASCHEN)**

The two Art Editions of *Pretty Much Everything* span three volumes and 666 photographs—including prints of a masked Alexander McQueen and a bearded Kate Moss (Edition A), or two images from their Lanvin Homme campaign (Edition B)—celebrating the visceral images of husband-and-wife photography team Inez van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin, from their personal work and editorial shoots to their campaigns for Balenciaga, Balmain, and many more.



nick thorburn photographed by linda bruanlage. *pretty much everything* art edition photographed by gaeul underwood. dasha shishkin photographed by joanna muelke. eungie joo illustrated by lisa hillyvik. artwork by adrián villar rojas. "ahora estaré con mi hijo, el asesino de tu herencia" ("now i will be with my son, the murderer of your heritage"), 2011. photo courtesy of galleria.casa.haus.