

RARELYUNABLE PRESS RELEASE

SOUTHERN LORD

PRESENTS....

ARTIST – SUNN O)))	TITLE – KANNON
FORMAT – CD/LP/DL	LABEL – SOUTHERN LORD

RELEASE DATE: 04/12/2015



Composed in the aftershadow of **SUNN O)))**'s most recent successes in immersive collaboration (the group worked with Scott Walker on *Soused*, Ulver on *Terrestrials* in 2013 and 2014) and also from the broad and influential wake of their epitomic *Monoliths & Dimensions*, *Kannon* emerged both independently as a conceptual entity and with roots in the legacies of those projects, yet was fully realised years later, in 2015. The album consists of three pieces of a triadic whole: Kannon 1, 2 and 3.

The album celebrates many **SUNN O)))** traditions; *Kannon* was recorded and mixed with **SUNN O)))**'s close colleague and co-producer Randall Dunn in Seattle, in Studio Litho, Aleph and Avast!; and the LP includes performances by long term allies and collaborators Attila Csihar, Oren Ambarchi, Rex Ritter, and Steve Moore to name a few. At the core, the composition centres around the dynamic and intense guitar and bass interplay of **SUNN O)))**'s founders: Stephen O'Malley & Greg Anderson.

It is possibly the most figurative album **SUNN O)))** has created, which is unusual as they usually dwell in layers of abstraction and subjectivity. On the other hand the album is the most outright "metal" in years, drawing personal associations and memories of cherished albums like Panzerfaust and Twilight of the Gods again to the forefront of consciousness. *Kannon* is also very close to the cyclical character of mantra which the band has evolved into as a living creature, the enormity of intense sensate detail and manifestation of the live in concert element of **SUNN O)))**, the organism that has flourished, metamorphosed and transcended tremendously over the past ten years.

The literal representation of *Kannon* is as an aspect of Buddha: specifically "goddess of mercy" or "Perceiving the Sounds (or Cries) of the World". She is also sometimes commonly known as the Guanyin Bodhisattva amongst a plurality of other forms. There is a rich lineage behind this idea tracing back through many Asian belief systems, with as many names and cultural personifications of the idea.

SUNN O))) commissioned critical theorist Aliza Shvarts to write a text / liner notes around these ideas and topics. She also explores the relations and perceptions to their approach to these ideas via the metonym of music and **SUNN O)))**'s place/approach within the framework of music and metal overall.

SUNN O))) also commissioned Swiss designer/artist Angela LaFont Bollinger to create the cover artwork, an abstracted sculpture of vision of *Kannon*. French photographer Estelle Hanania captures portraits of the core trio (Csihar, Anderson, O'Malley) in the impressive and obscure Emanuel Vingeland mausoleum in Oslo.

Kannon will be available on gatefold LP, CD and digital formats worldwide on 4 December, with a limited number of white vinyl available on Black Friday RSD, Friday 27 November.

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