

Calgary songwriter **L.T. Leif** to release double-album **Shadow on the Brim / Rough Beasts** on June 6, 2016 through The CYOR

A songwriter and an artist, a collaborator and an instigator, **L.T. Leif** is, above all, a creator. She makes things—drawings, films, melodies and experiences—and her songs are at once true stories and fables, grounded in minutia but grasping at grander truths. She favours the ukulele, an instrument known for its weightlessness, but she tethers it to dark drones and rough-trod soil, and illuminates it with a voice that's pure, transparent warmth.

Her tangled folk has found many admirers, from K Records maestro **Calvin Johnson** who hand-picked her for a compilation and cross-country tour presented by The Believer Magazine, to Canadian indie veteran **Mark Hamilton (Woodpigeon)**, who recruited her for the international pop collaboration Embassylights. It has also led her to stints in a series of bands linked by a joy of creation, bands like the rough-hewn punk trio OK Jazz and oddball rock'n'roll of Hex Ray. But it's been over half a decade since it's led to an album under her own name.

Shadow on the Brim and **Rough Beasts**, the two new albums she'll be releasing on **June 6** on **The CYOR**, each sprang from very different soil. One was rooted in the relative comfort of the Rocky Mountain foothills, recorded in the basement studio of a soon-to-be-condemned house. The other was forged in a frozen shack on Canada's east coast, captured on reel-to-reel between restless nights in an unheated attic and trips to chop and haul wood for the stove.

Distinct as the two albums are, it's fitting that they'd tumble forth together. Though they're separated by the width of a continent, they're united by an inquisitive spirit. One wrestles with the power and necessity of our inner beasts, the other with the inevitable shade cast by even the fullest cup of joy. Between them, they address a question that's endearingly old-fashioned—what does it mean to be a good person?

It's not a question that's meant to be answered, but for Leif, the asking is what matters. With engineering by Canadian masterminds **Jay Crocker (JOYFULTALK, NoMoreShapes)** and Shawn Dicey (**Lab Coast, Cousins**), and appearances from **Jon McKiel** and **Sara Froese (Olenka and the Autumn Lovers)**, **Shadow on the Brim** and **Rough Beasts** are infused with the belief that life springs from the rough edges and imperfections. Like Leif herself, they shy away from polish, but they're honest, inventive and always unexpected.

