

October 12, 2021
For Immediate Release

**Cate Le Bon Announces New Album, *Pompeii*,
Out February 4, 2022 on Mexican Summer, and 2022 Tour**

Watch the Video for Lead Single “[Running Away](#)”



Photo Credit: H Hawklina

“Pompeii was written and recorded in a quagmire of unease. Solo. In a time warp. In a house I had a life in 15 years ago. I grappled with existence, resignation and faith. I felt culpable for the mess but it smacked hard of the collective guilt imposed by religion and original sin.

The subtitle is: You will be forever connected to everything. Which, depending on the time of day, is as comforting as it is terrifying. The sense of finality has always been here. It seems strangely hopeful. Someone is playing with the focus lens. The world is on fire but the bins must go out on a Tuesday night. Political dissonance meets beauty regimes. I put a groove behind it for something to hold on to. The grief is in the saxophones.” - Cate Le Bon

Cate Le Bon announces *Pompeii*, her sixth full-length studio album out **February 4th, 2022 on Mexican Summer**. In conjunction, she presents its lead single/video, “**Running Away**,”

and shares dates for her **North American, European, and UK tour**. The songs of *Pompeii*, the follow up to 2019's Mercury-nominated **Reward**, feel suspended in time, both of the moment and instant but reactionary and Dada-esque in their insistence to be playful, satirical, and surreal. Songs built for Now miraculously germinate from Le Bon's interests in antiquity, philosophy, architecture, and divinity's modalities. A global pandemic plus climate emergency's colliding eco-traumas resonate all too eerily. "*What would be your last gesture?*" she asks. But *Pompeii* reaches past the current crises to tap into what Le Bon calls "*an economy of time warp*" where life roils, bubbles, wrinkles, melts, hardens, and reconfigures unpredictably, like lava—or sound, rather.

Written primarily on bass and composed entirely alone in an "*uninterrupted vacuum*," Le Bon plays every instrument (except drums and saxophones) and recorded the album largely by herself with long-term collaborator and co-producer **Samur Khouja** in Cardiff, Wales. Enforced time and space pushed boundaries, leading to an even more extreme version of Le Bon's studio process – as exits were sealed, she granted herself "*permission to annihilate identity*."

Tim Presley's painting hung on the studio wall as a meditative image for Le Bon and was reproduced as a portrait of her for the *Pompeii* album cover. Fist across the heart, stalwart and saintly: how to make "*music that sounds like a painting?*" Le Bon asked herself. Enter piles of *Pompeii*'s signature synths made on favourites such as the Yamaha DX7, amongst others; basslines inspired by 1980s Japanese city pop, designed to bring joyfulness and abandonment; vocal arrangements that add memorable depth to the melodic fabric of each song; longtime collaborator **Stella Mozgawa**'s "jazz-thinking" percussion patched in from quarantined Australia; and Khouja's encouraging presence.

Lead single "Running Away" is accompanied by a video, directed by longtime collaborator **Casey Raymond** and recorded in The Factory in Porth, Wales. It features Le Bon alongside saxophonist **Euan Hinshelwood**. The song radiates sax-swagger; a tale exquisite in nature but ultimately doomed (*The fountain that empties the world / Too beautiful to hold*), escapism lives as a foil to the outside world. *Pompeii*'s audacious tribute to memory, compassion, and mortal salience is here to stay.

[Watch Cate Le Bon's "Running Away" Video](#)

[Pre-order Pompeii](#)

***Pompeii* Tracklist**

1. Dirt on the Bed
2. Moderation
3. French Boys
4. Pompeii

5. Harbour
6. Running Away
7. Cry Me Old Trouble
8. Remembering Me
9. Wheel

Cate Le Bon 2022 Tour Dates

- Sun. Feb. 6 - Woodstock, NY @ Colony
- Tue. Feb. 8 - New York, NY @ Bowery Ballroom
- Wed. Feb. 9 - New York, NY @ Bowery Ballroom
- Fri. Feb. 11 - Toronto, ON @ Great Hall
- Mon. Feb. 14 - Chicago, IL @ Thalia Hall
- Wed. Feb. 16 - Portland, OR @ Wonder Ballroom
- Thu. Feb. 17 - Seattle, WA @ Crocodile
- Sat. Feb. 19 - San Francisco, CA @ Great American Music Hall
- Sun. Feb. 20 - San Luis Obispo, CA @ The Rock / SLO Brew Music Hall
- Thu. Feb. 24 - Los Angeles, CA @ Teragram Ballroom
- Sat. Feb. 26 - Pioneertown, CA @ Pappy's
- Mon. March 12 - Southampton, UK @ Engine Rooms
- Tue. March 15 - London, UK @ Hackney Empire
- Wed. March 16 - Manchester, UK @ Albert Hall
- Thu. March 17 - Glasgow, UK @ Queen Margaret Union
- Fri. March 18 - Belfast, IE @ Empire Music Hall
- Sat. March 19 - Dublin, IE @ The National Concert Hall
- Mon. March 21 - Liverpool, UK @ Arts Club
- Tue. March 22 - Leeds, UK @ Irish Centre
- Wed. March 23 - Birmingham, UK @ The Mill
- Mon. March 28 - Lille, FR @ L'Aeronef
- Tue. March 29 - Paris, FR @ La Maroquinerie
- Thu. March 31 - Lyon, FR @ Epicerie Moderne
- Fri. April 1 - Zurich, CH @ Bogen F
- Sat. April 2 - Schorndorf, DE @ Manufaktur
- Sun. April 3 - Leipzig, DE @ UT Connewitz
- Tue. April 5 - Berlin, DE @ Franz Club
- Wed. April 6 - Hamburg, DE @ Nachtspeicher
- Thu. April 7 - Hus 7 / Slaktkyrkan @ Stockholm, SE
- Fri. April 8 - Oslo, NO @ Parkteatre
- Sat. April 9 - Copenhagen, DK @ Small Vega
- Mon. April 11 - Brussels, BE @ AB Box
- Tue. April 12 - Amsterdam, NL @ Paradiso

[Download hi-res press images and album art](#)



Pompeii Album Artwork

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