

SHEBAD is the spiritual expression of Claire Voy and Mark Spagnolo. Through their mutual understanding as conduits of music, they come together to summon ideas and experiences that can only exist through the medium.

In the isolation of 2020, Claire and Mark opened the door to writing and recording, which was a first, as their relationship with music was previously discovered in live spaces and listening. Using free software out of Mark's bedroom, they released their first singles Oneiro and Stop Moving in 2021. The year prior challenged them technically, creatively and interpersonally on many planes. It was through this humbling growth, commitment to each other, and reverence for music that they were able to build the trust and stamina required to create a conceptual body of work. It now manifests as their debut EP *'show us it's real'*, housing five tracks including its lead-off single *'Terra'* which found its way to NPR's KCWR radio station, along with a roster of Spotify curated playlists such as Outliers and Fresh Finds.

They met each other in 2018. Claire was a practicing visual artist and Mark was playing in a jazz trio with Toby Binder (drums) and Jon Chung (live keys). He invited Claire to join soon after discovering her incredible voice and musical background. It was in these beginnings that they aligned their musical tastes, playing their heroes Erykah Badu, Hiatus Kaiyote, Lauryn Hill, Stevie Wonder, Tame Impala, and Amy Winehouse. This connection allowed both of them to explore their capacities as multi-dimensional artists.

SHEBAD takes on a form that distinguishes itself from the recordings, incarnating as a six piece live band. Along with original members Toby (who also handcrafts their stagewear) and Jon, they are joined by Maya Bishop (vox), Nathan Klassen (trumpet/sax) and Emil White (sax/bass/design). Returning to their craft of live performance now unified over the task of translating their original music, they work as a team to bring the extended dimensions of SHEBAD to life. Their shows have since accrued a cult following in Guelph. Due to the incomparable energetic support of beloved friends and community members, they have gone on to play around Ontario and BC at independent festivals and arts events.

The added dimension of SHEBAD's visual art is equally compelling to that which informs the project's creation. All of the cover art for their subsequent releases, *'show us it's real'* included, have been created by Claire through a combination of photographic, digital, and painted techniques. Fascinated by the way multidisciplinary art practices interact to form worlds, members of SHEBAD and creative coparties find a place to be celebrated.

This project is loved, and is of love. Open yourself and experience.