

# INSECT ARK

Evoking visions of dripping and lurching horror films, outer space travel, and gritty noir textures, NYC-based instrumental band **Insect Ark** is led by founder **Dana Schechter** (bass, lap steel guitar, synthesizers). Using delay-drenched lapsteel, distorted bass & synths, and acoustic and electronic drums, Insect Ark's music creates a sonic mural both uncomfortably intimate and icy cold.

Bridging the gap between experimentation and song form, a heavy focus is on composition. But Insect Ark is not a studio project; it is very much a live experience; bass, lap steel guitar, drums and synths, and the use of intricate live looping techniques achieve a monster "wall of sound" — with only two people on stage. A mind-bending animated video accompanies live shows, also made by Schechter, who works as a video artist in the film business, completing the live experience to envelop and crush the senses.



Photo: Chad Kelco

**DECEMBER 2019:** The band's newest album is now complete. Entitled *The Vanishing*, it will have a February 2020 release, once again on *Profound Lore Records*.

*The Vanishing* features six new songs which were composed over the course of 2019 and refined during October's three-week North American tour. The new songs bear many of Schechter's signature styles: eerie melodies, lush arrangements, barren darkened landscapes, epic heaviness, but it also has a refreshed feeling of focus and sparsity. The melodies are bigger and less cluttered; the chords are more crushing, the dynamics are more defined. The songs benefit greatly from drummer Andy Patterson's weighty, sinewy and graceful drumming. It is without question the most realized work of the band to date.

Insect Ark will begin touring in support of *The Vanishing* in Europe starting in March 2020, with other territories to follow.

- VIDEO: New song "Philae" live @ Velvet Underground, Toronto. October 11, 2019
- VIEW ONLINE PRESS PAGE



## DISCOGRAPHY:

- 2018: Marrow Hymns, 12" Vinyl/CD, *Profound Lore Rec*
- 2017: Portal/Well, 12" Vinyl, *Sleeping Giant Glossolalia Rec*
- 2016: Long Arms/Maria W. Horn, Cassette split, *XKatedral Rec*
- 2015: Portal/Well, Full-Length CD, *Autumnsongs Rec*
- 2015: Portal/Well, Cassette, *Gewei Ritual Documents*
- 2015: Windless, 7" Lathe Cut Single, *Utech Rec*
- 2013: Long Arms, 10" EP, Vinyl, *Gewei Ritual Documents*
- 2012: Collapsar, 7" Single, Vinyl, *Lancashire & Somerset Rec*



Photo: Michael Jung

## BIOGRAPHY:

From 2011-2015, Insect Ark operated as the one-woman solo project of bassist/multi-instrumentalist/composer **Dana Schechter**; she made three records in which she recorded and played all the instruments (*Collapsar 7"*, *Long Arms 10"*, *Portal/Well LP*).

From 2015-2019 drummer/electronics builder **Ashley Spungin** was in the band. Highlights include 2018's *Marrow Hymns* on *Profound Lore Records*, EU and N. American tours, a recording residency at synth mecca EMS Stockholm, and appearances at Roadburn, Basilica Soundscape, and Northwest Terror Fest. In July 2019, Spungin and Schechter stopped working together.

In September 2019, drummer **Andy Patterson (SubRosa)** joined the band. The duo spent the month at **The Boar's Nest**, the Salt Lake City studio Patterson owns and operates, preparing for a N. America tour with Finland's **Oranssi Pazuzu**, and directly after, to enter the studio to record *The Vanishing* with NYC engineer **Colin Marston**.

Dana Schechter has worked as a collaborator for studio/stage with **Swans**, **Angels of Light**, **Zeal & Ardor**, **Arabrot**, **Wrekmeister Harmonies**, **Gnaw**, **Bee and Flower**, **Gifthorse**, and more. Starting in Spring 2020, she will be joining as a primary touring member of **Swans**. Andy Patterson has worked in bands such as **SubRosa**, **DONE**, and **the Otolith**, among numerous others.

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Photo: Chad Kelco

### [Invisible Oranges, Feb 2018](#)

*Marrow Hymns* burrows into your mind like a complex web of substance, filling portals like roots in a reflective glass. There is another layer behind the sound: a form that wraps the compositions like a blanket in the desert of space. You can feel an intimacy that is complete. An area destined to contain the outside of your inner-world. Like a black hole far away, the band careens across a wide expanse of textural pastures, continually seeking the center, but never fully collapsing.

### [The Wire, Feb 2018](#)

Something about “Slow Ray”, the middle track on Insect Ark’s latest album *Marrow Hymns*, reminds me of light and dust streaming in through a collapsing wall, of the positive use of negative space and a creative spirit that persists not in spite of catastrophe, but because of it. Founded in 2011 as the solo project of multi-instrumentalist Dana Schechter, whose previous credits include Michael Gira’s *Angels Of Light* and her own dark folk project *Bee and Flower*, the atmospheric doom of Insect Ark has recently been transformed by the addition of drummer Ashley Spungin of *Taurus* and *Purple Rhinestone Eagle*. Schechter coaxes searing, lyrical shapes from the lap steel, weaving elegantly layered harmonies over Spungin’s patient and precise rhythmic armature. Each sound occupies a distinctive space in the overall spectrum; a testament to the expertise of both the artists and (engineer) Ethan Donaldson. In a genre that can easily become muddy and repetitive, Insect Ark has created a refreshing standout of a record that is at once cathartic and refined.

### [Noisey, Feb 2018](#)

The duo of Dana Schechter (rumbling bass; mournful lap steel) and Ashley Spungin (cavernous drums; crackling homemade electronics) turn adversity into triumph, forging a bleak, blasted brand of instrumental ambience. Their strange, wandering trajectory now finds them releasing the vast and densely-woven *Marrow Hymns* with avant-metal lynchpin *Profound Lore*—a fittingly strange home for a fittingly strange band whose story takes in everything from thrash metal primitivism to the fine art of being alone and, ultimately, the urge to create something meaningful within that which is frequently meaningless.

### [Revolver Magazine, Feb 2018](#)

Dana Schechter’s résumé stretches back nearly 20 years in the NYC experimental, metal and goth scenes, so her debut outing on heralded record label *Profound Lore* — *Insect Ark’s Marrow Hymns* — isn’t exactly her first rodeo. Having spent time with her own outfit *Bee & Flower*, Swans main man Michael Gira’s folk outfit *Angels of Light* and caustic noise crew *Gnaw* (featuring Alan Dubin of *Khanate*), Schechter is well versed in NYC’s musical outer ring.

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