

Sun Araw, M. Geddes Gengras, The Congos — FRKWYS VOL. 9: SUN ARAW & M. GEDDES GENGRAS MEET THE CONGOS – ICON GIVE THANK (the album) & ICON EYE (the film)



For the ninth volume of **FRKWYS**, a music and film series pairing contemporary artists with those that may have preceded them in style and/or approach, **Sun Araw** and **M. Geddes Gengras** meet legendary dub reggae group **The Congos** in St. Catherine, Jamaica and create the full-length album, *ICON GIVE THANK*. In conjunction, RVNG will release *ICON EYE*, a feature film documenting the young musicians' time spent living and learning The Congos way.

In hindsight, the FRKWYS Vol. 9 timeline takes on dream-like qualities. In a matter of months, the idea for the collaboration was divinely inspired, The Congos reassembled in their original formation, and Sun Araw (earthly name **Cameron Stallones**), Gengras, alongside filmmakers **Tony Lowe** and **Sam Fleischner**, traveled to St. Catherine, Jamaica (45 minutes from Kingston) for ten days to undertake the unknown.

What events would transpire in the Portmore neighborhood of St. Catherine can only be described as blessed. The gates opened wide and warmly, the musicians and filmmakers ate, slept, and smoked at The Congos headquarters, their mural-embazoned studio, home, and spiritual compound. An environment steeped in the Ital lifestyle, Rastafarian reflection and meditation, and a rich community bubbling with musical energy, both young and old artist would learn an unspoken creative language.

GIVE THANK is not a dub reggae album, though it shares some of the genre's production characteristics. Rather, it's an album of Stallones and Gengras's melodically experimental meditations ornamented with The Congos' soulful vocal leads and four-part harmonies. The four kings of the The Congos share the vocal throne over the course of *GIVE THANK*. Johnson's tenor, Myton's falsetto, Burnett's baritone, and Fyffe's cosmic vocal glue command singularity and create an essence combined.

The visual companion to the musical fruit of *GIVE THANK* is *ICON EYE*, a feature-length travelogue that evokes a musical and cultural intersection through refracted atmospheres and a feeling of magical, rhythmic synchronicity. *ICON EYE* shares dubbed-out editing techniques inherent in the reggae sub-genre, rendering a visual "version" of the album.

Through the diaristic yet cinematic lens of handheld HD cameras, secret moments from the studio, fishing villages, late night dances, abandoned hotels and The Congos' yard are blended into a strange tapestry. Musicians, computers, children, and food reveal mystical resonance. *ICON EYE* is the first RVNG Intl. film production.

LP/CD track listing

1. New Binghi
2. Happy Song
3. Food Clothing and Shelter
4. Sunshine
5. Jungle
6. Invocation
7. Thanks and Praise

DVD

Icon Eye

Additional information

- *ICON GIVE THANK* marks the 9th installment in RVNG's ongoing FRKWYS collaboration series.
- The Congos' *Heart of the Congos* remains a beloved album by fans across the music listening spectrum.
- With prolific output on labels like **Not Not Fun**, **Woodsi**, and **Drag City**, Sun Araw has become an avant institution at a young age.
- Live debut of Sun Araw, M. Geddes Gengras, and The Congos to take place in June 2012
- Press coverage confirmed for **NPR**, **The Fader** (10 page spread in March/April issue), **Pitchfork**, **WIRE**, **FACT**, **Resident Advisor**, etc.
- LP & CD come with the *ICON EYE DVD*, RVNG's first feature film endeavor.

Cat # FRKWYS09

Artist Sun Araw, M. Geddes Gengras, The Congos

Title FRKWYS Vol. 9: Sun Araw & M. Geddes Gengras meet The Congos

Genre World / Dub / Experimental

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Vinyl Is Not Returnable

Box Lot LP + DVD: 35, CD + DVD: 75

LP + DVD



CD + DVD



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