



**Representing** New York  
**Sounds Like** Billie Holiday,  
 Joanna Newsom, Daniel Johnston  
**Connection** Estranged sisters who've  
 toured with Bright Eyes, TV on the Radio  
**Label** TGRec.com

**As** women, or maybe just as humans, Bianca and Sierra Casady find themselves loving too much, loving things that don't always love them back.

The two sisters comprise the eccentric and other worldly duo, CocoRosie, whose music so far has explored patriarchal archetypes, gender bending and lovelorn ladies singing the blues. Last year's *La Maison de Mon Reve* quickly enchanted listeners, while the group's new album, *Noah's Ark*, only bittersweetens the deal.

Comparisons to Billie Holiday are not for the sisters' vocal prowess alone. The female characters in their songs tend to be cloaked in despondency, all the while suffering from a desperate kind of love. Acting as opposite sides of the same affection, the lush and operatic "Not for Sale" both attracts and repels the sentiment of "By Your Side."

"We connect to this 'My Man' by Billie Holiday perspective on love," says Bianca. "At the same time we struggle to free ourselves of it. Love is tragic. I think women were built to suffer more."

Despite feminist undertones in *La Maison*, Bianca seems allergic to categorization, describing the term "feminist" as a trick of rhetoric from which there is no escape. The movement that she seems most turned off by, however, is the vague musical genre to which she and her sister have been so often linked, whether it's called anti-folk, lo-fi Americana or something else equally as meaningless.

"We are artists using different qualities of sound to create textures to landscape the mood of a particular moment," she explains. "I think if we were visual artists these silly demeaning categories wouldn't exist. If we used a combination of a crayon and oil paint, paper and silk, the crayon wouldn't turn it into a lo-fi piece. Maybe that doesn't translate?"

What does translate is the immediacy of the duo's delicately spun fairy tales. Recorded within the confines of a shoebox apartment in Paris, *La Maison* is marked by the intimacy of its environs. The layers of lush vocals, social commentary and improvised instrumentation (Parisian rain, children's toys and metallic belts) melt into striking compositions both innocent and decadent. Reaching back to a bohemian youth spent in constant transition and guided by eccentric parents, the sisters continue to find ample inspiration.

"Sierra sang and did acrobatics, while I was a criminal starting at the age of nine," shares Bianca. "All things go back to girlhood or boyhood or trannyhood, right? Childhood is a dark and mysterious and a good reservoir to dig up rusty relics for poetic explorations."

The atmosphere that yielded *La Maison* was quite time and place specific, but that's not to say that the same wonder could not be created elsewhere. Having since relocated to Brooklyn and now a little more learned from tours with Bright Eyes and Devendra Banhart, the sister's new record, *Noah's Ark* arrived in stores September 13, proving it doesn't rain any softer in Brooklyn. ■