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Darren Orange makes his mark this February with an Astoria art show

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on the cover

Astoria artist Darren Orange will open a new art show, "Orange on Blue," in the lobby of the historic John Jacob Astor Hotel in downtown Astoria this February.

Photo by Dwight Caswell

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Two bands play Fort George  
 There Is No Mountain, Ghost Towns on tap

ASTORIA — Fort George Brewery will host two bands — There Is No Mountain and Ghost Towns — playing live music Sunday, Feb. 8. Head to the second floor at 8 p.m. for the show; there is no cover.

Portland-based husband-and-wife duo There Is No Mountain combines percussion, guitar and vocal harmony to create a brand of pop with intricate, world music-influenced arrangements. The band's virtuosic style has been compared to acts like The Dirty Projectors and classics like Paul Simon's "Graceland," but it's perhaps more telling that reviewers have tried to peg the duo's musical influences in genres ranging from jazz to folk, classical to psychedelic rock, and world music to doom metal — all are correct. Kali Giaritta and Matt Harmon usually just call it "pop with a short attention span."

There Is No Mountain's live set-up is an exercise in multitasking — the duo sings nearly everything in harmony while Giaritta plays a medley of percussive instruments and Harmon animates his acoustic guitar using nimble fingers and effect pedals. African rhythms, jazz harmonies, shape-shifting arrangements and psychedelic swirls seep through the Americana exterior, making the live show a total surprise to any first-timer.

With trumpet, accordion,

violin and banjo, Ghost Towns infuses western elements of folk rock and Americana with darker sounds from Eastern Europe. Songs alternate between joy melancholy but are anchored in the rain-drenched, earthy sensibility of the Northwest.

The band was born in March 2014 when Lukas Borsten assembled a crack team of Portland musicians to make a series of recordings during a week-long residency at the Sou'wester Lodge in Seaview, Washington. After performing a show on the final night, it became apparent that the experience and arrangements had coalesced into a band rather than merely a recording project.



Submitted photo

Ghost Towns was formed in March 2014 at the Sou'wester Lodge.



Submitted photo

There Is No Mountain will perform at the Fort George Brewery on Feb. 8.

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