



## Tanya Tagaq Animism



By Daniel Sylvester | May 23, 2014

### **9 out of 10 rating**

In 2004, when Björk released her (mostly) a cappella album, *Medúlla*, she brought in the world's premiere voice-musicians, including the America's Mike Patton, England's Simon Shlomo Khan, Japan's Dokaka and Canada's own Tanya Tagaq. With *Animism*, Tagaq's fourth LP, it's safe to say that she has taken this often divisive genre further than any of her contemporaries.

Again working with producer/violinist Jesse Zubot, *Animism* finds Tagaq's fearless voice (literally and metaphorically) pushing the limits of beauty, anger, primal energy and sexuality. Opening with a fitting cover of Pixies' "Caribou," much of the material on *Animism* travels at contrasting intervals, moving between bombastic vocal symphonies ("Uja"), well-crafted pop songs ("Fight") and cacophonous, amorphous parables ("Fracking"). But since this is Tanya Tagaq, no moment of the album feels excessive or perfunctory, making *Animism* one of the most challenging and listenable albums of the year.