

EGGSISTENTIALISM PRESS



Music Interview
"The music industry is smoo and mirrors": how DIY duo the Lovely Eggs are keeping the north weird
Daniel Dylan Wray

The psych-poppers have made records with **egg** but **launched their own TV channel**, but their biggest challenge yet is taking shape in their home city of Lancaster

The experience echoes through their seventh album, *Eggsistentialism*, next week. The opening punk thrash of Death Grip Kids comes with the scream of "shove your funding up your arse". But as it unfolds, the album is less grungy guitars and furious ralling against the system, and more electronic and expansive as it explores themes of loss, fading memories and survival. "It's a very vulnerable record," says Ross. "To let people see that side of you is quite hard – it's difficult admitting things have been really tough. People think that we're such resilient people but sometimes you've got nothing left to give. The album is a snapshot of when we were at our lowest."

However, despite the hard times, the Lovely Eggs are not just surviving but thriving.

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

reviews **now**

THE LOVELY EGGS

Eggsistentialism
★★★★
EGGS CO-OP

Cassidy Raymond's cover artwork is wacky, dense, skewed, gloriously yucky, like a glimpse of one of Rick & Morty's alternate universes. In other words, a perfect distillation of the aesthetic and philosophy that the Lovely Eggs stand for.

2020 is a perfectly scintillating punk-pop record. Less lo-fi than previous works, it remains intoxicating and exhilarating. The intro kicks things off with an off-kilter, and what sounds like a basic, if slightly eerie, moans, soon to be interrupted by the quintessentially lovely guitar of Death Grip Kids, where Holly Ross's introductory lines make Johnny Rotten look like a country gentleman. A much needed-up present is Cassidy's and Holly's on *Eggsistentialism*, but the album also chronicles the couple's realisation that vulnerability can be an equally powerful thing. The music is a new creation, a new creation, hunky dory that at times recalls Always.

Canilla Aiza

The Lovely Eggs celebrate their new album

SHINDIG! APRIL 2024

Sunny side up for Lovely Eggs

Ready for the off - The Lovely Eggs have new album and tour to promote

(Picture: Darren Andrews)

There are numerous bands and artists who claim to be independent but few have embraced the DIY ethic as totally as The Lovely Eggs.

The Lancaster-based duo - husband and wife David Blackwell and Holly Ross - have been making music their way for a new album, their first for four years out now, and their biggest tour yet about to start.

"Being independent and doing everything ourselves is not some kind of marketing ploy," said Holly. "It's something we've done for last 16 or 17 years in this band and it hasn't changed. I think it's important to work in that way."

So for the release of *Eggsistentialism* the pair have been hand signing art cards to accompany advanced orders and packing up every album, writing address labels and posting them off. "It has been a bit insane," said Holly. "I've been both with me'd organised a bit more help but it's sort of crept up on us."

"This is our first album since I Am Monon. And I felt like we had a lot to do then. But we have never sold as many albums as we have now and the tour hasn't done as well as we hoped for."

"We may well get people on board in the future to help pack our records or take on some of the admin so that we can concentrate on the music. But I think it will always be England and something we control. That is something which is so important to us."

"I can only speak about what we do in our world. But we always get back to everybody, send out every order ourselves as it is something meaningful."

"Life should have meaning; it's not just a sale of a unit or a transaction. Life should be so much more than that and we try to make it that as much as we can."

The duo's lo-fi psychedelia featuring

BY JOHN ANSON

john.anson@theguardian.com

Holly on guitar and vocals and David on drums has won them a growing army of fans who have brought into the couple's unique approach.

After lockdown they decided to produce their own TV series *Eggland* which proved far more time consuming than they had envisaged.

"We thought it would take a few months," said Holly, "and it took two years. It literally consumed us. But we thought if we were going to do it, we wanted to get it right. We worked with artist Cassidy Raymond who did all our records. That was a lot of time taken up."

As if that wasn't enough, the pair have been embroiled in a long battle to save Lancaster's Music Co-operative, a building which had fallen into disrepair.

"It's been a massive struggle," she said. "We had to hold the council to account for the promises they made to us in 2018 which they didn't fulfil. It took us going in and saying 'all you said in a full council meeting you can create music in a safe space, people of all backgrounds, all economic backgrounds as well.'"

"It was bad enough in 2018 to fight them but we've had to fight it again to get council officers to do what they said they would."

The ongoing saga of the Music

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."

"But music has always been our escape. It is something very precious, almost holy and now things have calmed down a bit I'm hoping we can get some balance into our lives and can go back to do what we do best - being in a band."

Eggsistentialism is out now on Egg Records. The Lovely Eggs play New Year's Eve in Manchester next Saturday, June 1.

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."

"But music has always been our escape. It is something very precious, almost holy and now things have calmed down a bit I'm hoping we can get some balance into our lives and can go back to do what we do best - being in a band."

Eggsistentialism is out now on Egg Records. The Lovely Eggs play New Year's Eve in Manchester next Saturday, June 1.

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."

"But music has always been our escape. It is something very precious, almost holy and now things have calmed down a bit I'm hoping we can get some balance into our lives and can go back to do what we do best - being in a band."

Eggsistentialism is out now on Egg Records. The Lovely Eggs play New Year's Eve in Manchester next Saturday, June 1.

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."

"But music has always been our escape. It is something very precious, almost holy and now things have calmed down a bit I'm hoping we can get some balance into our lives and can go back to do what we do best - being in a band."

Eggsistentialism is out now on Egg Records. The Lovely Eggs play New Year's Eve in Manchester next Saturday, June 1.

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."

"But music has always been our escape. It is something very precious, almost holy and now things have calmed down a bit I'm hoping we can get some balance into our lives and can go back to do what we do best - being in a band."

Eggsistentialism is out now on Egg Records. The Lovely Eggs play New Year's Eve in Manchester next Saturday, June 1.

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."

"But music has always been our escape. It is something very precious, almost holy and now things have calmed down a bit I'm hoping we can get some balance into our lives and can go back to do what we do best - being in a band."

Eggsistentialism is out now on Egg Records. The Lovely Eggs play New Year's Eve in Manchester next Saturday, June 1.

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."

"But music has always been our escape. It is something very precious, almost holy and now things have calmed down a bit I'm hoping we can get some balance into our lives and can go back to do what we do best - being in a band."

Eggsistentialism is out now on Egg Records. The Lovely Eggs play New Year's Eve in Manchester next Saturday, June 1.

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."

"But music has always been our escape. It is something very precious, almost holy and now things have calmed down a bit I'm hoping we can get some balance into our lives and can go back to do what we do best - being in a band."

Eggsistentialism is out now on Egg Records. The Lovely Eggs play New Year's Eve in Manchester next Saturday, June 1.

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."

"But music has always been our escape. It is something very precious, almost holy and now things have calmed down a bit I'm hoping we can get some balance into our lives and can go back to do what we do best - being in a band."

Eggsistentialism is out now on Egg Records. The Lovely Eggs play New Year's Eve in Manchester next Saturday, June 1.

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."

"But music has always been our escape. It is something very precious, almost holy and now things have calmed down a bit I'm hoping we can get some balance into our lives and can go back to do what we do best - being in a band."

Eggsistentialism is out now on Egg Records. The Lovely Eggs play New Year's Eve in Manchester next Saturday, June 1.

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."

"But music has always been our escape. It is something very precious, almost holy and now things have calmed down a bit I'm hoping we can get some balance into our lives and can go back to do what we do best - being in a band."

Eggsistentialism is out now on Egg Records. The Lovely Eggs play New Year's Eve in Manchester next Saturday, June 1.

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."

"But music has always been our escape. It is something very precious, almost holy and now things have calmed down a bit I'm hoping we can get some balance into our lives and can go back to do what we do best - being in a band."

Eggsistentialism is out now on Egg Records. The Lovely Eggs play New Year's Eve in Manchester next Saturday, June 1.

Co-op has had a major impact on the band.

"It was pretty much a full-time job," said Holly. "But finally we have got a 99-year lease and the council has awarded us the funds it had allocated in 2018 to carry our operations forward to March next year."

"That's not going to cover everything now so we are having to fundraise but the building has a roof on and is watertight and we are hoping to get it open for March next year."

The new album reflects the stress that Holly and David were under.

"There was so much unrest and turmoil. *Eggsistentialism* reads like a diary entry really," she said. "We really didn't have time to think about writing the album, we just sat down and did it."

"You can definitely sense what we were going through and as a result it's a very human album which isn't a bad thing. After all life isn't always joyful."

"They do say that as an artist when you are at your lowest you make your best work, and I think that might have happened with this album. I'm just annoyed we had to go through it all to get here, but we have got a very good album out of it."

With the Music Co-op's future secure the pair can now look forward to embarking on their biggest tour yet.

"We can't wait to get back on tour," said Holly. "We'll be visiting some of our favourite places and others we've never been to in quite a few years. It's always a good laugh on the road. It will actually be relating after all the admin and sending out thousands of records."