



## MOCKETT AND MOQUETTE LAURA MARLIN

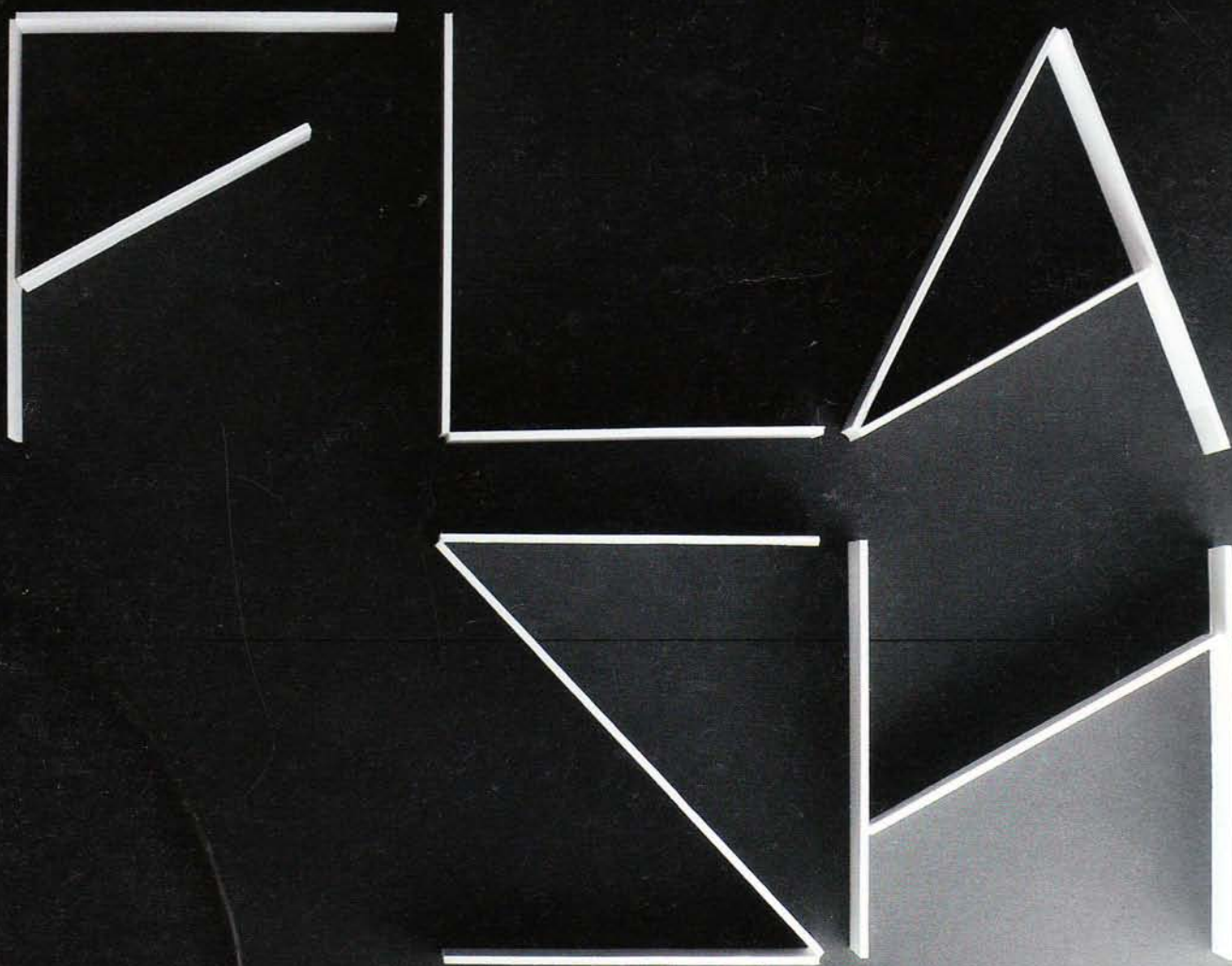
Despite her eighteen years, singer/songwriter Laura Marlin is the possessor of an old soul: shown not just through her dark folk songs of love and loss or comparison with the likes of Joni Mitchell, but also by her appreciation of music's physical presence—and aversion to laptop-loving mp3 fiends. Her debut album, *Alas I Cannot Swim*, released by Virgin, puts vinyl, let alone the dreaded jewel-case to shame, coming instead cased in a limited-edition 'Songbox'—complete with an object to represent each track, and all festooned with wood-block prints by Mockett and Moquette.

"I had never heard the music so I treated the album as if it was a book of poetry," explains Andrew Mockett. "I met Laura at her flat and discussed the lyrics, her meanings and intent, and then drew up my ideas before cutting the blocks." An object to be treasured, each of the 5,000 hand-screenprinted Songboxes contains postcards, miniature folded books, wrapping paper, a stained-glass image and even a board game, all adorned with richly coloured mythical prints of trees, figures and foliage. "Cutting the blocks was a long process," says Mockett. "But the designer at Virgin, Alex Cowper, was very engaged in the project so it all went through relatively easily and the finished article turned out just as I had imagined, which is rare."

With the finished box representing a tangible metaphor of the time and emotion put into writing and recording an album, Marlin intended that her listeners should have to guess which memento relates to each of her songs. Lovely.



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