

Kate Stables – This is the Kit

Bristol and Paris-based Kate Stables is behind This is the Kit – a musical project which has earned the adoration of peers including Guy Garvey, The National and Sharon van Etten. Their latest album and their Rough Trade debut, *Moonshine Freeze*, was produced by John Parish (PJ Harvey, M Ward, Perfume Genius). It was developed straight after its predecessor, *Bashed Out*, when days after coming off tour, Stables and her band headed into Geoff Barrow's Invada Studios in Bristol. Aaron Dessner of The National also features on six of the album tracks.

Kate talks passionately about the importance of making creative and professional decisions as independently as possible. She sees Momentum as a vital enabler of artistic and professional independence and as a way to build a stronger voice for artists when labels show an interest:

I was looking for funding to continue the work I do in a way I don't have to compromise. I didn't want to get corporate involvement on their terms or sign a less favourable record deal.



Momentum funding was used to develop and record *Moonshine Freeze* and Kate feels the fund helped make the LP on their own terms – Kate and John Parish.

There is a direct correlation between the funding and the band – it helped to pay for the musicians I wanted to come on tour with me and to pay for the horn section.

Momentum then has helped This is the Kit to develop and grow on their terms. Kate makes the equivalence to arts funding where this approach is the norm for visual or performing artists:

I have a clear idea and think I know how to execute it. But this takes time and money. I don't want to be led away from my ideas or to compromise.

Kate was unsure at first of how independent the Momentum funding would be, but now values it as an independent and trusted source of support.

Momentum funding was essential for This is the Kit to make *Moonshine Freeze* – their most critically and commercially successful record to date. Developed very much on their own terms and complementing the wider support and investment from Rough Trade.

With Momentum support, we had an LP which was funded – which makes negotiations with labels different. People think being well known brings money but it's not a secure living and it's pretty hand-to-mouth. This is another reason why additional support is so welcome.