



## Tobias Meinhart - Natural Perception with Ingrid Jensen (tp)

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“Natural Perception” is Tobias Meinhart’s debut album for ENJA Records. After spending five years living and playing in New York City, the saxophonist has compiled a series of original compositions that he feels represent his personal exploration of the spiritual power of music. The concept of the album was heavily inspired by Alejandro Jodorowski’s book, *The Spiritual Journey*, and especially the mental and emotional state that Jodorowski describes as “Empty mind, full heart.” To make a performance of such proportions possible, Tobias put together a band with whom he feels completely free, and thus capable of reaching a level of playing that is transcendent.

First, Tobias recruited his longtime mentor and master trumpet-player, Ingrid Jensen. “I have known Ingrid for over 12 years now and right from the beginning of my time in New York, she was extremely helpful to me. I immediately found her unique way of playing absolutely remarkable, and she still surprises and impresses me,” said the saxophonist of his former teacher. Having gained recognition through her work with the Maria Schneider Orchestra, Ingrid Jensen’s name can be seen frequently among the top five in the Down Beat Magazine’s annual critic’s polls. Ingrid is also very enthusiastic about Tobias: “[he] is an interesting combination of someone who is sweet and soft-spoken, but turns into a monster when he puts the horn on his face. That’s why he’s been able to put out a record with a good band that’s full of great tunes-and he’s playing his butt off”, she says.

The album also includes bassist Phil Donkin, known for his work with Kurt Rosenwinkel and Dhafer Youssef, and Tobias’s New York City cohorts Jesse Simpson and Yago Vasquez who play drums and piano, respectively. Jesse originally hails from San Francisco, while Yago moved to Brooklyn from Spain and currently shares an apartment with Tobias, putting them in an ideal position to practice together constantly and form a unique musical bond.

On “Natural Perception”, Meinhart explores a wide range of styles and moods. The album opens with a song reminiscent of the post-bop era of the 1960s, and continues into a rubato ballad in which the band swells and sways together in collective improvisation. The song “The Effort” was inspired by Wayne Shorter, and his recounting of his own experience searching for musical satisfaction. According to Mr. Shorter, he considers this strife merely as an “effort”. “What fascinates me about Wayne Shorter is that on stage he is completely vulnerable, without hiding behind technical tricks and prepared phrases”, says Meinhart. “Native Speaker” provides the album with a classic groove number in which

Jensen and Meinhart feed off of each other's lines, and Yago Vasquez plays Rhodes instead of piano. The album also features Jensen experimenting with various electronic effects – a field which is increasingly attracting to Tobias. Consequently, the quintet's live show now sometimes features him playing an EWI, an electronic wind instrument.

Recently the band was invited to the German consulate in New York, where they played a sold-out performance. They will release "Natural Perception" and play an extended tour in Europe in autumn 2015.

Tobias Meinhart – Tenor/Sopransaxophon  
Ingrid Jensen – trumpet & effects  
Yago Vazquez – piano, rhodes  
Phil Donkin – bass  
Jesse Simpson – drums



Ingrid Jensen



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