



Tobias Meinhart - SILENT DREAMER with Ingrid Jensen (tp) and Charles Altura (git.) (ENJA Records)

Two years after releasing his highly acclaimed 2015 album *Natural Perception* (ENJA Records), Tobias Meinhart returns with his ponderous and compelling sophomore release, *Silent Dreamer*. In 2016, *Natural Perception* earned Tobias a nomination for an ECHO Award and a five-star review in the New York City Jazz Record, which described the album as having a “graceful organic flow, subtle colors and delicate rhythms” and went on to praise Tobias’s playing as „relaxed and muscular with a gorgeous tone.” *Silent Dreamer* is decidedly darker in both tone and in subject matter, as Tobias makes use of a tonal palette more familiar to brooding alternative and popular music: lumbering straight 8th grooves, synthesizers, effects pedals, Rhodes and electric bass all coalesce underneath Tobias’s melodic modern jazz sensibility to form a single sound that is all at once engaging, grating and cathartic.

As implied by the album’s title, *Silent Dreamer* is intended to recapture the essence of the unconscious imagination: both ethereal daydreams and bitter nightmares, as well as all the invisible worlds that live between the two.

Tobias cites Wayne Shorter and Carla Bley as influences for the compositions on *Silent Dreamer*, but with the addition of band members Charles Altura (Chick Corea, Terence Blanchard), Ingrid Jensen (Maria Schneider Orchestra), and bassists Orlando LeFleming and Phil Donkin (Kurt Rosenwinkel and Branford Marsalis, respectively) this band can easily be seen as not only influenced by great masters, but as touched by their direct lineage.

Silent Dreamer’s core is Tobias’s two long-term collaborators, pianist Yago Vasquez and drummer Jesse Simpson. Yago shares an apartment with Tobias in Brooklyn, putting the two musicians in an ideal position to practice together and form a unique bond and a cohesive aesthetic. Finally, the album is filled out by

Justin Carroll, who contributes synthesizers on several tracks, adding the atmosphere that works to set this album so far apart from Meinhart's previous work.

Tobias says of this addition „When improvising and composing, I like to think of myself as a ‚sound-painter‘, adding strokes to a canvas and bringing it to life. The synths on this album bring an entirely new set of colors to the compositions.“ Indeed, the impact of visual art on these compositions is crucial, with Tobias also citing the writings of the great visual artist Kandinsky as a main influence.

Tobias has toured Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Spain, Italy and Poland, and opened for Chris Potter (Jazz an der Donau) festival and Wayne Shorter (Getxo Festival). He has studied with Joe Lovano, Seamus Blake and John Ellis and is the recipient of several awards including Best Soloist and Best band at the prestigious Getxo Festival. He has also played many of the major European Jazz festivals including Jazzbaltica and Elbjazz, and was voted into the European Next Generation Orchestra. Now he is making a name in the New York jazz scene, playing in various bands and leading his own group. In New York he has performed at the Blue Note, Birdland and the Jazz Gallery among many others.

Tobias Meinhart – Tenorsax & EWI
Ingrid Jensen – trumpet & effects
Charles Altura - guitar
Yago Vazquez – piano, rhodes
Orlando LeFleming (on 2,3,4)– bass
Phil Donkin – (on 1,5,6,7,8,9)
Jesse Simpson – drums

synthesiser (on 1,7) – Justin Carroll