



GAVILAN RAYNA RUSSOM

The Envoy

Label
ECSTATIC

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ECSTATIC

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DESCRIPTION

Transdisciplinary NYC artist **Gavilán Rayna Russom** beautifully comes into her own with a distinguished solo debut album statement including the voice of **Cosey Fanni Tutti** and brass arrangements by downtown legend **Peter Zummo**. After decades exploring her sonic personality through her deep immersion in NYC's club and avant-garde scenes, Rayna uses *The Envoy* as a vessel to firm up and convey her personal conclusions on intersections of gender and electronic music. Enriched with complex human experience and key influence from sci-fi writer **Ursula K. Le Guin's** novel *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969) – a book with descriptions of an alien race with multiple sexual characteristics – the album is intended to realign misconceptions of Russom's prescient early work such as 2005's *The Days of Mars* LP for DFA, which arguably foreshadowed a rise of beat-less and more ambiguous urges commonplace in contemporary dance music. With *The Envoy*, Russom returns to a 2019 music scene that's better prepared with the politics of an emerging new world. Entwining Russom's perspectives on gender, the occult, and spirituality, and how they relate to the body and music's healing properties, *The Envoy* expresses the artist's concerns in nine interrelated parts. Practically devoid of percussion, but full of body-moving polyrhythmic pattern, the pieces spill out of the lines of any typically imposed "grid". Within this loose context, porous to the chaos of noise, Russom smudges a blend of analog and digital synths to connote an elusive sense of self. Employing the fluid potential of electronic music at its most fundamental in a way that loops right back to the gliding suspense of her prized early work, literally incorporating elements of solo recordings made in the late '90s in the wake of Russom's psych/noise band, **Soma**. Unanchored by kicks, yet pulsing in its own ways, the album flows with an underlying elegance from Cosey Fanni Tutti's spellbinding recital of Russom's text in "Kemmer", set to an organic, orgiastic writhe of arps and stressed noise, and on thru the free-floating organ scape of "Envoy", to acknowledge more industrial impulses with "Strength Out of the Dark" and a towering highlight of the album in "Discipline of Presence", where Russom's throbbing mass is hauntingly illuminated by plangent brass arrangement from Peter Zummo (key **Arthur Russell** collaborator). The ten-minute "Winter" then wraps it all up under a titular reference to Ursula K Le Guin's novel, placing Russom as a filament of solo piano-playing light within the cold expanse of NYC. Cut at Dubplates & Mastering, Berlin. Edition of 300.

TRACKLISTING

01. Changelings in the Human
02. Kemmer
03. Envoy
04. Place Inside the Blizzard
05. Strength Out of the Dark
06. Center of Time
07. I Bleed I Weep I Sweat
08. Discipline of Presence
09. Winter



HIGHLIGHTS

- Solo debut album of pulsing, beat-less urges by NYC transdisciplinary artist, **Gavilán Rayna Russom**.
- Includes guest appearances by industrial and downtown figures **Cosey Fanni Tutti** and **Peter Zummo**.
- Russom is a member of **LCD Soundsystem**.
- Cut at Dubplates & Mastering, Berlin.
- Edition of 300.

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