



ROSE TANG & PATRICK GOLDEN A White Horse Is Not a Horse

Label

ESP-DISK

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Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - T - JAZZ

ESP-DISK'

DESCRIPTION

Rose Tang has previously been heard on ESP-Disk in the band **ATTITUDE!**, whose album *Pause & Effect* came out in 2021 (ESPDISK 5048LP). She writes: "There was a school of philosophy in ancient China whose core theory stems from a debate entitled 'A White Horse Is Not a Horse.' In a book by **Gongsun Long** (公孫龍 320-250BC, about 200 years after **Confucius**) in the Warring States Period, two persons argue if a white horse is a horse: the protagonist argues it is not, because 'white' is the color of a (particular) horse while a 'horse' is a shape and a generic term. It's a linguistic/logical paradox, or sophistry. Ridiculed by his contemporary philosophers and forgotten for centuries, Gongsun is now considered the only philosopher in ancient China who delved into logic and philosophy of language. I was about 12 when my artist father first told me about the debate. He's painted many horses, especially white horses. Long before I discovered I'm a Mongol, I had always loved horses. Funny, my high school politics (Maoism/Marxism) teacher nicknamed me 'Wild Horse Running off the Reins.' That's how I see myself when playing music. Music offers instant and countless ways of freeing myself and connecting with people and the multiverse. It's all about following the qi, the energy, the flow. It's like cooking or making love, with senses and feelings all out in the open, without thinking. Improvising in a group is the most democratic activity. And all sounds are equal – birds, traffic, construction, the ocean, kids – all music to my ear. All instruments are my toys (some are indeed my daughter's toys). For every instrument I play, I feel the physical and spiritual connections with them. Ask not what your instrument can do for you, ask what you can do for your instrument. I look for the sounds that an instrument isn't 'supposed' to make. Music is the most abstract art form and the closest to the truth, yet it's the most institutionalized. My slogan is 'Learn through play. Play by ear. Fuck the rest!' So here it is, just some Weird Shit, music that is not music. A white horse is not a horse." All music improvised by **Rose Tang** and **Patrick Golden**. Recorded by **Jim Clouse** at Park West Studios, Brooklyn, on August 28, 2024.

TRACKLISTING

01. Silence死 Violence死 (4:12)
02. WW3 (9:37)
03. Active. Passive. Voice! (6:15)
04. A White Horse Is Not a Horse 白馬非馬 (24:16)
05. Devolution Revolution (7:21)
06. Hexadelic (11:45)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Rose Tang** has previously been heard on ESP-Disk in the band **ATTITUDE!**, whose album *Pause & Effect* came out in 2021 (ESPDISK 5048LP).
- *A White Horse Is Not a Horse* was inspired by a debate from a book by **Gongsun Long**.
- All music improvised by **Rose Tang** and **Patrick Golden**. Recorded by **Jim Clouse** at Park West Studios, Brooklyn, on August 28, 2024.

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