



EL KHAT Aalbat Alawi Op.99

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Genre
FILE UNDER - E - WORLD



DESCRIPTION

Rough-hewn and exhilarating, **EL Khat**'s second album *Aalbat Alawi Op.99* is a deep dive into leader **Eyal el Wahab**'s Yemenite roots and their inspired re-imaginings. A careening orchestra of percussion, horns, strings, electricity and el Wahab's own DIY instruments. Mesmerizing retro-futurist sounds. El Khat. Named for the drug used so widely chewed across the Middle East, the band's music is certainly addictive, more so with each outing. Their second album, *Aalbat Alawi Op.99*, is a disc full of joys, where the melodies unfold one after the other, involving and catchy. "I tried to be simple in the structure," explains Eyal el Wahab, the group's leader and heart, who composed and arranged almost everything on the album. *Aalbat Alawi Op.99* is very much his vision. "It's a bit like pop music, where the soul is four chords and a melody. The difference is in the expression." That sense of expression and meaning flows through the first single, "Djaja," where he sings "From Yemen and beyond America/We are all together and I am alone." This is music that both looks over the shoulder to his family's past and forward to the world that lies outside. El Wahab plays many of the instruments on the album, things like the dli and the kearat that he constructed himself. A skilled carpenter, it's something he started doing several years ago, using his skills to make music from the items people discard. A child of the Yemeni diaspora who's grown up in Tel Aviv Jaffa, Israel, it's a practice that harks back to the family homeland, where even rubbish can become an instrument. Where the last album, *Saadia Jefferon*, saw Eyal el Wahab bring a funky, psychedelic re imagination to the traditional Yemeni songs that electrified him when he first heard them, this is a disc almost entirely filled with his own compositions, something close and personal that constantly looks back to his family's homeland on the Arabian Peninsula. "*Joyously mixing authentically Arabic musical tropes with ethnomusicological forgeries. Vigorous psychedelic stomps...an exciting new discovery.*" -Uncut

TRACKLISTING

01. Ma'afan
02. Djaja
03. La Sama
04. Muftaha
05. Ala Al Ma
06. Alba
07. El Khat
08. Naksah Al Ras .1
09. Naksah Al Ras .2
10. Leilat Al Henna
11. Said Min A'sawad
12. Albat Alawi Op.99



HIGHLIGHTS

- *Aalbat Alawi Op.99* is **EL Khat**'s second album.
- Rough-hewn and exhilarating, *Aalbat Alawi Op.99* is a deep dive into leader **Eyal el Wahab**'s Yemenite roots and their inspired re-imaginings.
- A careening orchestra of percussion, horns, strings, electricity and el Wahab's own DIY instruments.
- "*Joyously mixing authentically Arabic musical tropes with ethnomusicological forgeries. Vigorous psychedelic stomps...an exciting new discovery.*" -Uncut

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