



EKKEHARD EHLERS Plays

Label

KEPLAR

Format

2LP

Catalog Number

KEPLARREV 011LP

UPC

880918258799



Store Price

\$27.99

Release Date

10/28/22

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - E - EXPERIMENTAL

keplar.

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DESCRIPTION

Ekkehard Ehlers's seminal plays series was originally released on three 12"s (Staubgold) and two 7"s (Bottrop-Boy) in very limited runs. The entire series was previously only available as a CD compilation. Keplar finally presents it on double vinyl for the first time, featuring a new artwork. Domestic ethnology: Ekkehard Ehlers plays. "Play" is a word in English with many meanings attached. Each one sends you down a different cognitive pathway. When Ekkehard Ehlers plays, he is very much on his own. Or, at least, alone but at the same time keeping intimate company with the artistic innovators named in his titles. **Robert Johnson. John Cassavetes. Albert Ayler. Cornelius Cardew. Hubert Fichte.** Is he playing with them, against them, about them, for them, to them? This can never be known. It is certainly a mistake to try to hear the "work" of these originals in the sounds played by Ekkehard. They're not cover versions. They're hardly tributes in the conventional sense. Cassavetes and Fichte are not even musicians, although music played an important part in both their careers. Sure, there are little nods and flashes of recognition – tiny guitar licks among the minimal beats of "Robert Johnson 2"; rich bowed instruments in "Albert Ayler", recalling the violin, cello and double bass arrangements on Ayler's 1967 *Live in Greenwich Village* LP; the elongated organ lines of "Cornelius Cardew 1" gesturing towards passages in Paragraph 1 of the British composer's 1971 Marxist monolith, *The Great Learning*. Ekkehard is not so much playing these figures as allowing himself to be played by them. Playing as an activity also suggests freedom. Maybe the only thing all five named persons have in common is that they were all quiet radicals. In music, literature and cinema, they all stepped, without self-promotion or fanfare, into unmapped territories. Once there they found it necessary to invent new languages in order to survive. Necessity was the mother of their inventiveness. They were also uncomfortable avant-gardists. Lonely types, fighting their corners out on the margins, with little reward, often misunderstood, ridiculed or ignored. All died unfairly young. The deaths of Johnson, Ayler and Cardew have never been satisfactorily explained, and remain shrouded in myths and conspiracy theories. The pioneering expeditions of all five began in that spirit of playful freedom, but inexorably drew them towards the heart of darkness. Ekkehard Ehlers's intuitive electronic portraits are a form of domestic ethnology in themselves. Invoking another of Ekkehard's musical aliases, they are portraits of cultural "autopoiesis" – creators whose works were strong enough to have their own self-regenerating life force. Featuring **Stephan Mathieu, Joseph Suchy, Anka Hirsch.** Mastered by **Rashad Becker.** Cut to vinyl by **Lupo,** Berlin, 2022. Redesigned by **Sandra Kastl,** 2022. Photos by **Ludger Blanke.** Gatefold sleeve; includes download code; edition of 500.

TRACKLISTING

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1.01. Plays Albert Ayler 1 (10:01) | 2.02. Plays Hubert Fichte 2 (9:59) |
| 1.02. Plays Albert Ayler 2 (9:45) | 2.03. Plays Cornelius Cardew 1 (4:01) |
| 1.03. Plays John Cassavetes 1 (9:58) | 2.04. Plays Cornelius Cardew 2 (4:03) |
| 1.04. Plays John Cassavetes 2 (9:57) | 2.05. Plays Robert Johnson 1 (4:04) |
| 2.01. Plays Hubert Fichte 1 (10:01) | 2.06. Plays Robert Johnson 2 (4:00) |

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ekkehard Ehlers**'s seminal plays series was originally released on three 12"s (Staubgold) and two 7"s (Bottrop-Boy) in very limited runs. The entire series was previously only available as a CD compilation.
- Keplar present it on double vinyl for the first time, featuring a new artwork.
- Ekkehard Ehlers's intuitive electronic portraits of **Robert Johnson, John Cassavetes, Albert Ayler, Cornelius Cardew,** and **Hubert Fichte** are a form of domestic ethnology in themselves.
- Gatefold sleeve; includes download code; edition of 500.

Also available:

(STAUB 026LP) EHLERS, EKKEHARD: *Plays Hubert Fichte* LP [4011760992418]
(STAUB 041CD) EHLERS, EKKEHARD: *Politik Braucht Keinen Feind* CD [801670021629]
(STAUB 049CD) EHLERS/SUCHY/HAUTZINGER: *Soundchambers* CD [801670022626]
(STAUB 049LP) EHLERS/SUCHY/HAUTZINGER: *Soundchambers* CD [801670022619]
(STAUB 066CD) EHLERS, EKKEHARD: *A Life Without Fear* CD [801670027324]
(STAUBANA 012LP) EHLERS, EKKEHARD: *Adikia* LP [4050486075807]
(STAUBDIG 001CD) EHLERS/PAUL WIRKUS, EKKEHARD: *Ballads* CD [5060181861093]
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