

TESTBILD! Bed Stilt

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60 Lowell St, Arlington, MA 02476 ph: (781) 321-0320 • fx: (781) 321-0321 fe@forcedexposure.com

DESCRIPTION

Matching breezy, Bossa nova-tinged sophistication with softly spiralling psychedelia, Testbild! arrive in the Quindi lounge as though they've always been there. On their 12th album, Bed Stilt, the Swedish collective cast their attention back to the earlier days of their 25-year trip through sweetly mysterious pop-notpop rendered in warm tones and shot through with surrealism. The project was spearheaded by Petter Herbertsson in his hometown of Malmö in the late '90s, although the story on their website credits the inspiration and source material to a chance meeting and unpublished manuscript from a retiring scientist. The collective's evolution since then is a tangled web of facts and fiction spun by a revolving cast of collaborators including Siri af Burén, Katja Ekman, Rikard Heberling, Douglas Holmquist, Mattias Nihlén, and Petter Samuelsson. Along the way, their music has touched on chamber pop, postpunk and modern jazz with the elaborate harmonies and catchy songwriting charm of the Canterbury scene. The tracks which make up Bed Stilt were in fact track recorded in Malmö back in the mid-'00s, lying in wait for the right opportunity to be brought to light with some delicate overdubs and finishing flourishes in the here and now. Tomas Bodén - better known as Civilistiavel lent some additional synth work as well as mastering the record. Musically, Testbild! stay true to their idiosyncratic approach on Bed Stilt with six immaculately rendered sojourns through lilting harmonies and brushed rhythms, feeling nostalgic but beguiling in equal measure. The finger-picking delicacy and languid harmonica of "Streams" strike a pastoral mood neatly countered by the elegant slide into dislocated ambience for the track's final stretch. By contrast, "And Her Eyes Are Red" surges with a big beat urgency which plays beautifully with the mellow jazziness of the chord sequences, boldly toying with song structure to dart down curious tangents without losing the immediate impulse of a great pop record. Somewhere in this tension between clarity and chaos we can understand the addictive charm of Testbild! - a band steeped in the considerable craft of making accomplished and unconventional music so very easy to sink into.

TRACKLISTING

- A1. The First New Years Eve
- A2. Streams
- A3. And Her Eyes Are Red
- B1. Cardamom Song
- B2. Soft Winged and Frail
- B3. Water On The Moon

HIGHLIGHTS

- Matching breezy, Bossa nova-tinged sophistication with softly spiralling psychedelia, **Testbild!** arrive in the Quindi lounge with their 12th album, *Bed Stilt*.
- Musically, Testbild! stay true to their idiosyncratic approach on *Bed Stilt* with six immaculately rendered sojourns through lilting harmonies and brushed rhythms, feeling nostalgic but beguiling in equal measure.
- Tomas Bodén better known as **Civilistjavel** lent some additional synth work as well as mastering the record.

Press Contact: publicity@forcedexposure.com