



## CARMEN VILLAIN Music From The Living Monument

Label

**SMALLTOWN SUPERSOUND LE JAZZ  
NON**

Format

**LP**

Catalog Number

**STSLJN 423LP**

UPC

N/A

Store Price

**\$21.99**

Release Date

**08/04/23**

Territory

**NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE**

Genre

**FILE UNDER - V - ELECTRONIC**

### DESCRIPTION

**Carmen Villain** follows 2022's *Only Love From Now On* with this new full-length exploration of soporific, slow-moving ambience and disemboweled dub, a score she composed for a contemporary dance performance by acclaimed Choreographer **Eszter Salamon**. Simply put, it's one of the most captivating things we've heard this year; all luxurious texture-cycles in possession of a delirious, dreamlike quality that hits a rarified spot somewhere between **Aphex Twin**'s *Selected Ambient Works Vol.II*, classic **Chain Reaction** and **Jim O'Rourke**'s meditative electronic recordings. *Music from the Living Monument* was written for choreographer **Eszter Salamon**'s dance performance of the same name, a lavish and sculptural show for 14 performers dressed in ornamental fabrics (which you can see on the album art) while surrounded by slowly shifting environments. Carmen reflects the measured gestures of the dancers, ruminating on slowness and burying instrumentation in sensual abstraction. Edited down from almost three hours of music, the album opens with "Multicolor" and triggers the same sense of suspended animation you get from *Selected Ambient Works Vol.II*, its brooding mix of glacial gestures and fizzing pads suggestive of fuzzed, liminal states. From here it only gets deeper and more disorienting, peaking with the frankly majestic "Silver", deployed at a pace that makes **Rhythm & Sound**'s beatless dub abstractions seem almost giddy by comparison. Villain locks us into infinitesimal movements with a slow, heartbeat-thud of a bass drum crumbling around choral pads that grow in intensity over its nine-minute duration. It's one of those pieces you could get lost in for hours, such is the power of its swirling, meditative vibrations. "Pink" ends the set by flexing more angular muscle, contorting what sounds like glassy clangs into electroacoustic pulses in a way that feels effortlessly engrossing, harmonizing with Jim O'Rourke's stunning *Hands That Bind* OST. Microtonality is an overused buzzword right now, but Carmen penetrates the essence of its magic, emphasizing sensuality and mysticism in a way that feels like someone whispering softly into your ear as you pass from the waking world into a deep, dreamless sleep.

### TRACKLISTING

01. Multicolor
02. Gold
03. Silver
04. Violet
05. Pink

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Carmen Villain** follows 2022's *Only Love From Now On* with this new full-length score for acclaimed Choreographer **Eszter Salamon**'s dance performance *The Living Monument*.
- Carmen Villain's first compositions for dance.
- Dreamlike texture-cycles somewhere between **Aphex Twin**'s *Selected Ambient Works Vol.II*, classic **Chain Reaction**, and **Jim O'Rourke**'s meditative electronic recordings.

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