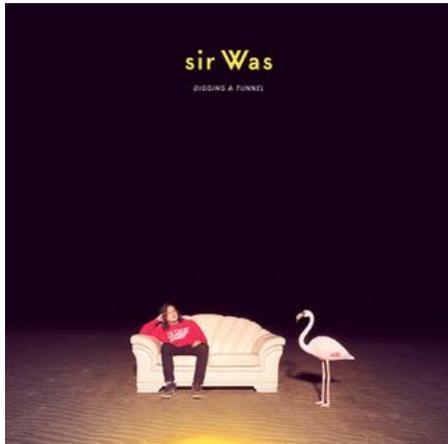




IRASCIBLE MUSIC



SIR WAS (SWE)

Digging A Tunnel

Label: City Slang

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Web: www.facebook.com/sirWas.SE

EPK: irascible.ch/de/releases/sir-was/digging-a-tunnel

Gothenburg-based artist sir Was, the musical alias of Joel Wästberg, is announcing his debut album «Digging A Tunnel». Comprised of 10 original songs, it's an album that constantly bucks trends and confounds expectations. Traveling as widely as Wästberg has - and filtered through a love for hip hop - the album is as unrestrained and spirited as the music that inspired it. Wästberg explains, «*Moondog, Bob Hund, My Bloody Valentine, D'Angelo, J Dilla, The Beatles, Mahavishnu Orchestra... I don't know. I listen to a lot of stuff!*»

sir Was played almost all the instruments on his debut, including drums, bass, keyboards, guitar, percussion, clarinets, and saxophone. Much of «Digging A Tunnel» was recorded between autumn 2014 and spring 2015 in Wästberg's favored Gothenburg studio space, Stampen, but the record is lent its especially singular atmosphere by the strange background noises the producer employs, many from field recordings he compiled during his travels, whether maracas in Mexico or flutes from another distant land. It boasts, too, an effortless flow, reflected in Wästberg's vocal delivery, which shifts from the aforementioned falsetto to a lazy spoken word delivery that circles round the beat rather than landing on it.

Inspired by Charlie Parker and John Coltrane, sir Was began studying jazz saxophone at an early age and was soon flying around the world to perform with a variety of ensembles. His more unlikely experiences included jamming with a pajama-clad Sean Lennon in his New York apartment and escaping the 2012 coup d'état after playing at a festival in Bamako, Mali. Though he later moved back to Gothenburg, he also spent time at the University of Kwasulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa, where he developed an interest in pan-African rhythms. Soon he was making a living not from his saxophone - as he had since 2010 - but from other musical adventures, including playing with José González. Eventually, however, the time came to strike out on his own.

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