



IRASCIBLE MUSIC



STUART A. STAPLES (UK)

Arrhythmia

Label: City Slang

Release Date: 15.06.2018

Web: tindersticks.co.uk/home

EPK: irascible.ch/de/releases/stuart-a-staples/arrhythmia

Stuart A. Staples releases «Arrhythmia» on 15 June via City Slang, his first solo album in thirteen years. «Arrhythmia» is immersive and experimental, both recognisably the work of the Tindersticks' frontman and simultaneously a stand-alone, unique piece of work. It's a provocative album where electronic experimentations and rare multi-instrumentations interweave, wrapping themselves around unconventional but utterly spellbinding song structures.

Written in what Stuart A. Staples describes as «a lost year», «Arrhythmia» began on Christmas day 2016 when he was drawn to the studio to record the beginnings of «A new real», the album's hypnotic opener of glitchy electronic loops with a sly nod to disco. A year later the entire album was complete, a process which involved Staples struggling between his own free sense of timing and more mechanical rhythms and what he describes as «a growing need for each song to take a turn, to lead them into strange places, keeping the feeling or effect of the song, but only as a memory.»

The second track «Memories» of love is indicative of «Arrhythmia»'s time-less experimentation and musical exploration. A stark and delicate melancholy opens up to rich and increasingly vivid chiming bells. There's a feeling that the song has two diversely distinct parts unexpectedly, yet perfectly, married. Closing side 1, «Step into the grey» offers a dark romanticism reminiscent of early Tindersticks with a crescendo of freestyle percussion and strings.

Side 2 of the album consists of a 30 minute instrumental track «Music for 'A year in small paintings'». The piece began its evolution back in 2012 when filmmaker, and long-time Staples collaborator, Claire Denis first saw the serial of works by the painter (and Staples' partner) Suzanne

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Place du Nord 7, 1005 Lausanne
Geroldstrasse 33, 8005 Zürich
www.irascible.ch

D-CH Promotion: Niklaus Buehler
niklaus@irascible.ch; 044 271 32 84

F-CH Promotion: Gilles Kaeser
gilles@irascible.ch; 078 976 00 25



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Osborne and wanted to turn these 365 oil paintings of the sky into a film. As friends and musicians passed through Staples' studio he asked them to watch and react to the paintings. As Staples explains «From these recordings, I chipped away at its form, guiding and editing. Each time there was an exhibition of the work there was a newly evolved version of the music to accompany it.» Eventually the creative process came full circle when Claire Denis' film «Un beau soleil interieur» (transl. «Let the Sunshine In»), featured the paintings, and their music became inextricably linked to the film's soundtrack. Improvisations of the themes from «Music for 'A year in small paintings'» were also contributed by The Julian Siegel Quartet.

All songs on «Arrhythmia» were written by Stuart A. Staples with the exception of «Memories of love» and «Music for 'A year in small paintings'» which were co-written by Dan Mckinna. The album's side 1 was recorded by Staples and Sam Navel at Le Chien in 2017 with additional recording taking place at RAK, London by George Murphy for «Memories of love» and «Step into the grey». Side 2 was recorded by Staples at Le Chien between 2014 and 2017 with the exception of the strings and woodwind which were recorded by Robbie Nelson at RAK, London in March 2017. All songs mixed by Staples at Le Chien and mastered by Jason Mitchell at LOUD late 2017.

Stuart A. Staples sings and plays a variety of instruments on «Arrhythmia» including guitar, bass, chimes, q-chord, philichorda, bells, Wurlitzer piano and vibraphone alongside an array of guest musicians – Dan Mckinna (piano), Thomas Belhom (drums), Seb Rochford (drums), Julian Siegel (clarinet, quartet arrangement), David Boulter (musical saw) and Neil Fraser (guitar) who helped create this multi-layered album.

TRACKLIST:

Side 1

A real new (5.13 minutes)

Memories of love (10.34 minutes)

Step into the grey (7.28 minutes)

Side 2

Music for 'A year in small paintings' (30.52 minutes)

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