



SAFIA NOLIN (CAN)

Dans Le Noir

Label: Bonsound

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Web: safianolin.com

EPK: irascible.ch/releases/safia-nolin/dans-le-noir/

Miroir is the first song that Safia wrote after recording her debut album, Limoilou, three years ago. It took a new location and almost two years - mostly spent touring - to draft her next track, France. Then, during a creative residency at Alberta's Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, La neige, Les chemins, Dagues and Le néant poured out of her. The end results is the album Dans le noir, comprised of 13 songs, all written in Safia's self-described super depressive style (the style that won her the Prix Félix-Leclerc de la chanson, the SOCAN Breakthrough Award, and the Félix for Breakthrough Artist of the Year in 2016). Like with Limoilou, this new collection of songs deals with the artist's failed relationships. Each song reads like a polaroid, revealing and bringing pivotal moments into the light.

Recorded and mixed in eight days at WILD Studio in St-Zénon, Dans le noir is a downer-folk album produced by Safia and her two long-time, much-respected collaborators Joseph Marchand and Philippe Brault. Safia first tested her new tracks with Marchand, Brault and a 4-track, taping them on cassette. A few bits of these experimentations found their way onto the LP (Le néant, the first half of Encore and the intro of La neige), and add an intimate, lo-fi touch. The trio was assisted by Ghyslain-Luc Lavigne for the recording and mixing, and Carlin Nicholson (of the Toronto band Zeus) for the recording. As the only anglophone in the group, Nicholson brought a certain sensitivity to the process by approaching the music as a language in and of itself. The last addition to the team was La Force (aka Ariel Engle from Broken Social Scene, AroarA) who harmonized with Safia on the bilingual duet Lesbian Breakup Song.