



IRASCIBLE MUSIC



SEB MARTEL (FRANCE)

Album: Saturn 63

Label: InFiné

Release Date: 16.09.22

Web: <https://irascible.ch/de/artists/seb-martel/>

EPK: <https://irascible.ch/de/releases/seb-martel/saturn-63/>

If the name Seb Martel is still unknown to you, the guitarist appears on the credits of classic albums from Tony Allen, Femi Kuti, Morcheeba or Blackalicious. Saturn 63, his new album on InFiné is dedicated to the exploration of the electric guitar in all its nuances. This new opus made from a selection of 9 guitars from the Musée de la Musique (a branch of the Philharmonie de Paris), and only enriched with the voices of his close collaborators (Camille, Sabrina Bellaouel...), unfolds on fourteen tracks a musical fresco faithful to the historical and geographical heritage of his instrument.

The album includes fascinating reworks of Carl Perkins, Benjamin Britten, Cavelas Vargas or Vincent Segal in addition to his own compositions. However, adopting a dogmatic approach, and dressing his compositions with sounds and effects collected during the recordings, Martel offers an abstract and experimental edge to Saturn 63, which transports the listener into an out of time experience. Two famous names of the French Chanson, -M- and Mathieu Bogaert joined Martel to close the album with the snapshot of a speechless improvised session.

“This story is basic. So let’s examine the key elements: A museum, under the guise of the Paris Philharmonie, full of musical instruments. In this case a beautiful electric guitar. A label, a great label, full of great ideas, great artists, and a guitarist.” summarizes Sebastien Martel with humility.

Expert craftsman of the guitar in France, Seb Martel releases the second part of a collection centered on the instrument collection of the musée de la musique in Paris. The principle is simple, the erudite but all-round musician has been given access to all the electric guitars in the annex of the

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Philharmonie de Paris. Among them, strewn in the shelves of the museum's archives, one of them particularly caught his attention.

“ The last guitar that Alexandre, the curator, took out for me was the so-called Saturn 63, a German guitar. This lit Saturn transported me. It's a guitar with a rather extravagant look and a depth of sound that's quite incredible. It's a very good travel companion.” revealing the origin of the title of the album.

From then on, the Saturn 63 is the perfect musical vessel for a 14-track odyssey loaded with nods to the history and geography of an instrument presented in all its nuances.

"But be careful. I made this record, in a very dogmatic way." he adds.

The guitarist working the strings of a small dozen electric guitars will record with his soundman, a lot of musical material. The concept of the album will quickly impose itself:

"I only use the guitars of the museum, the only instrument allowed, with the human voice being the only additive.”

The grain of the textures, sometimes barely perceptible, the effects of the pedals blur the stylistic and temporal borders of the album and give to the album the discrete silver linings of ambient and experimental music.

Re-imagining a Rock & Roll standard like "Blue Suede Shoes," Seb Martel, raw and rebellious in his vocal tones, puts Carl Perkins back, here and now, right in his listener's ear with close-to-the-microphone and string takes . The noisy distortions at the end of the track would be more reminiscent of Thurston Moore's ecstatic style than the King's slick playing.

On "Macorina", a love story between women, and a tribute to the Mexican singer Cavelas Vargas, it is a minimal and evasive folk, which comes to feed on the silences to better bring out the intensity of the singing of his brother Nicolas.

These voices, that of a circle of close friends (Camille, Vic Moan...) and some new acquaintances of the label (Sabrina Bellaouel, Cindy Pooch), come to humanize the spectrum of the emotions developed by the guitars. When it leans towards more Pop compositions like the very successful "My Best Friend", guitars and voice communicate together on an aerial, cyclic and evolving melody.

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And if he invites "his two old buddies", -M-, and Mathieu Boogaert, two great voices of the French Chanson à texte on "Mattjam", it is to better conclude on a few ethereal minutes of a long session of improvisation which finish celebrating the guitar as the most beautiful invitation to the escape.

Saturn 63 crystallizes the know-how of an eclectic musician, at once an expert and a defender of the strict definitions of aesthetic canons, but also capable of transporting a collection of sublime melodies out of time and away from its ephemeral excitement.

About Seb Martel:

Sebastien Martel is a French guitarist who has worked in the studio or on stage with many international figures in Jazz, Trip-Hop (Morcheeba, Bumcello, General Elektriks, Troublemakers), Hip-Hop (Blackalicious, Dj Medhi), World Music (Tony Allen, Femi Kuti, Rokia Traoré, Manu Dibango), Jazz (Julien Lourau, Magic Malik) or French Chanson (-M-, Camille, Alain Chamfort, Carla Bruni). The guitarist has released two albums in his name in 2003 and 2006 where we already meet many guests featured on Saturn 63.

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