

Pharmakon

Bestial Burden



Four days before New York noise musician Margaret Chardiet was supposed to leave for her first European tour as **Pharmakon**, she had a medical emergency which resulted in a major surgery. Suddenly, instead of getting on a plane, she was bedridden for three weeks, missing an organ.

“After seeing internal photographs taken during the surgery, I became hyper-aware of the complex network of systems just beneath the skin, any of which were liable to fail or falter at any time,” Chardiet said. “It all happened so fast and unexpectedly that my mind took a while to catch up to the reality of my recovery. I felt a widening divide between my physical and mental self. It was as though my body had betrayed me, acting as a separate entity from my consciousness.”

Consumed by these ideas, and unable to leave her bed, Chardiet occupied herself by writing the lyrics and music that would become *Bestial Burden*, the second **Pharmakon** LP for Sacred Bones Records. The record is a harrowing collection of deeply personal industrial noise tracks, each one brimming with struggle and weighted with the intensity of Chardiet’s internal conflict.

Bestial Burden was recorded at Heaven Street Records in Brooklyn, N.Y. with Sean Ragon (**Cult of Youth, Venerence**), who also recorded 2013’s critically acclaimed *Abandon*. Ragon allowed Chardiet to experiment with a mix of live recording and tracking, and some of the vocals were recorded live with a small group of people packed into the studio so she could feed off their energy. The result of those sessions is the bar-raising follow-up to *Abandon*, and an invitation to go even deeper into the sometimes terrifying, always fascinating labyrinth that is Margaret Chardiet’s mind.

TRACK LISTING:

- 1 Vacuum (1:33)
- 2 Intent or Instinct (8:31)
- 3 Body Betrays Itself (5:06)
- 4 Primitive Struggle (2:11)
- 5 Autoimmune (4:45)
- 6 Bestial Burden (7:07)

KEY INFORMATION / SELLING POINTS:

Hometown / Key Markets:

- New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago

Selling Points / Key Press:

- Great press for debut LP *Abandon*, including a full-page piece in **The New Yorker**, a print feature in **The Fader**, and an 8.0 **Pitchfork** review
- Tours with **Swans**, **Godflesh** and **The Haxan Cloak**
- Has performed at **ATP Festivals** in the UK and Iceland
- **Pitchfork** on *Abandon*: “A dark, visceral, utterly compelling thrill.”

Related Catalog:

- SBR-099 Pharmakon *Abandon* CD/LP

RiYL: Swans, The Haxan Cloak, Throbbing Gristle

CATALOG #: SBR-117

GENRE: Industrial/Noise

RELEASE DATE: 10-14-2014

AVAILABLE FORMATS: CD, LP

UPC-LP: 616892229841

UPC-CD: 616892229940

TERRITORY RESTRICTIONS: None

VINYL IS NOT RETURNABLE

BOX LOT: CD 30 / LP 35

LABEL CONTACT:

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LP



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