

SISKIYOU

Nervous

CD / 180gLP / DL

RELEASE DATE: 20 JANUARY 2015

3rd album from the group led by Colin Huebert and Erik Arnesen (Great Lake Swimmers)

"carefully crafted, perfectly balanced, addictively melodic" – ROCK-A-ROLLA

"in cold surroundings, moments of warmth arrive with life-affirming brightness, and that's what makes Siskiyou's music so memorable" – BLURT

Siskiyou returns with *Nervous*, a majestic album of carefully constructed art rock built around songwriter and lead singer Colin Huebert's stacked acoustic guitars and intimate, whispery vocals. Siskiyou's sound has been previously dubbed a sort of 'Northern Gothic', conjuring cold winds and the life-saving warmth of temporary shelters and tiny hearth fires. With *Nervous*, the band continues to push beyond the crisp lo-fi intimacy of its early work, and has forged its most confident and finely-crafted recording to date, moving fully into auteur and chamber-pop territory with a song cycle that brings to mind the meticulousness of mood and sonics found in recent work by PJ Harvey, Nick Cave and Tindersticks. Inflected by an anxious, sussurant restraint, Huebert's voice is supported by the falsetto backing vocal counterpoint and economical instrumentation of bandmates Erik Arnesen, Peter Carruthers and Shaunn Watt. Fans of the understated and underrated 1990s group Swell may also hear a welcome evocation of that group's acoustic guitar-driven simplicity and austere deployment of adornments.

Following Siskiyou's excellent sophomore release *Keep Away The Dead* in 2011, Huebert became afflicted with a serious inner ear condition that eluded conventional diagnosis. While honouring a previously-scheduled songwriting residency in Dawson City, Yukon in winter 2012, Huebert found himself grappling with severe anxiety and an unwelcome interiority, engendered by hyperacusis and a house that felt utterly haunted. Intense chronic ear-ringing and panic attacks continued throughout the year, for which conventional medicine was unable to find any cause or effective treatment; Huebert began focusing on meditation, retreated to silence for a period, and then began rehearsing his new songs with the band at extremely low volumes. The songs on *Nervous* are shot through with the entirety of this experience: the literal feeling of being trapped in one's head and the physical-psychological feedback loop of debilitating anxiety; the lyrical themes and tense, whispered singing amidst tightly-wrought compositions and arrangements.

Huebert found solace in new working methods within the controlled environment of studio-based production and composition, developing new sonic palettes and pursuing new avenues of instrumental arrangement and recording fidelity. Working with producer/engineer Leon Taheny (Owen Pallett/Final Fantasy, Dusted, Austra) on most of *Nervous*, Siskiyou has emerged with by far its most assured, ambitious and authoritative recordings, while preserving the economy of elements, deft structures, and assiduous melodic deliberation for which the band has been rightly celebrated over its two previous albums. In charting escape paths from his disquieting cranial confinement, Huebert has very much succeeded in setting his songs out on an expansive canvas, while preserving a palpable sense of nervous interiority and quiet desperation at their heart.



CST109 • CONSTELLATION • 

ARTIST: Siskiyou
TITLE: *Nervous*

TRACKLIST:

- 01 Deserter
- 02 Bank Accounts and Dollar Bills (Give Peace a Chance)
- 03 Wasted Genius
- 04 Violent Motion Pictures
- 05 Jesus in the 70s
- 06 Oval Window
- 07 Nervous
- 08 Imbecile Thoughts
- 09 Babylonian Proclivities
- 10 Falling Down the Stairs

GENRE: Indie Rock / Americana

DURATION: 42:56

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(514) 279-9705 PR: graham@cstrecords.com twitter.com/cstrecords