

Tashi Wada with Yoshi Wada and Friends

FRKWYS Vol. 14 – Nue

Composer **Tashi Wada** has performed for years with his father **Yoshi Wada**—artist, composer, and early member of the Fluxus movement. However, they have rarely appeared together in studio settings. *Nue*, the fourteenth entry in RVNG Intl.'s intergenerational FRKWYS series, finally brings Tashi and Yoshi, along with an eclectic group of close friends and extended family, together on tape.

Nue draws on aspects of Tashi's background for his widest vision to date—among them the minimalist bagpipe music of Yoshi, who co-composed three of the tracks, the psychoacoustic and perceptual explorations of his mentor, composer **James Tenney**, and reimagined forms of ancient and devotional music. The album, however, is not a tribute to the past or a recapitulation of familiar sounds. Instead, *Nue* is an intertwining of people and ideas as a means of growing, of looking inward to move outward, and of looking back to move forward.

To achieve this growth, Tashi assembled a core group of fellow travelers, including Yoshi, composer **Julia Holter**, producer **Cole MGN**, and percussionist **Corey Fogel** to give life to this multifaceted suite. As an experience, *Nue* subtly navigates the interactions, intimacy and spaciousness of this group.

The album's title itself is a nod to Tashi's abiding interest in duality and the unknown: *nue* is a mythological Japanese chimera with the face of a monkey, the legs of a tiger, and a snake for a tail, a composite form, at once disturbing and otherworldly. But, as the composer points out, *nue* is also French for naked—stripped of complexity, bare and exposed, but also raw and essential.

From the doubling of tones—and the world of harmonic nuances such as an action produces—to the rich interplay between individual musicians, all baring their own personalities and experiences through shared performance, Tashi's compositions allow space for these elements to join and grow. The multipartite creature that is an ensemble melds in the simplicity and purity of the music itself.

As explained by Tashi, each part was written with an individual in mind, not simply an instrument. And each individual performer makes their mark, from Holter's vocal performances on the cresting, oceanic "Mutable Signs" and "Ondine" with guest vocalists **Simone Forti**, **Jessika Kenney** and **Laura Steenberge**, to Fogel's resonant, precise percussion on "Bottom of the Sky." Producer Cole MGN, who has worked extensively with artists like **Beck** and **Ariel Pink**, helped to create a world of sound with minimal yet multi-dimensional materials. Like many of its influences, *Nue* uses deceptively simple means to create complex, coherent worlds and narratives.

Tashi notes the influence of legendary Brazilian writer **Clarice Lispector**, whose work looked inward, investigating memory and emotion and dream, to understand the often overwhelming world outside the self. Like Lispector's classic novel *Near to the Wild Heart*, *Nue* cleaves these archetypal dualities—world/self, old/new, complex/simple—to create a work that allows them to coalesce into something singular.

As Tashi states in his liner notes: "My desire was to create something both old and new sounding—ancient and futuristic—and ultimately something of its own world and other. *Nue* is a vision, an endless night of dreams, and a personal history of sorts, full of joys and demons."

Tashi Wada with Yoshi Wada and Friends' *Nue* will be released on September 28, 2018 on LP, CD, and digital formats. Accompanying visuals by Jana Papenbrock will be shared variously before the album release date, and a new touring group featuring members of the ensemble will converge for a special performance at National Sawdust on October 2.

Artist Highlights

- **Tashi Wada** is a Los Angeles-based composer and performer whose works explore harmonic overtones, resonance, and dissonance through precise tuning and a gradual change in pitch.
- Tashi Wada studied composition at CalArts with **James Tenney** and for many years has performed alongside his father, **Yoshi Wada**.
- **Yoshi Wada** is a Japanese composer, artist, and multi-instrumentalist who is currently based in Los Angeles. Yoshi moved to New York City in the late '60s and was an early member of the Fluxus art movement. Yoshi studied music composition with **La Monte Young**, North Indian singing with **Pandit Pran Nath**, and Scottish bagpipe with **James McIntosh** and **Nancy Crutcher**.
- Tashi Wada has released three solo records to date. *Duets*, his most recent solo album, was released under his imprint Saltern in 2014.
- *Nue* is Tashi Wada's fourth full-length project and the fourteenth in RVNG Intl.'s intergenerational FRKWYS series. Recorded during the Fall of 2017 in Los Angeles, California, *Nue* brings together Tashi Wada and his father Yoshi on their first ever released recordings (following years of collaborative performances) along with a cast of friends and loved ones, including artist **Julia Holter**, producer **Cole MGN** and percussionist **Corey Fogel**.
- Esteemed visual artist **Jana Papenbrock** contributed two works of video art for *Nue*.
- *Nue* is out on RVNG Intl. on LP, CD, and digital forms on September 28, 2018. Tashi Wada and the *Nue* ensemble will perform select live engagements surrounding the album's release.

TASHI WADA WITH YOSHI WADA AND FRIENDS

Nue



FRKWYS

14

Track Listing

1. Aubade
2. Ground
3. Litany
4. Ondine
5. Niagara
6. Double Body
7. Bottom of The Sky
8. Mutable Signs
9. Fanfare
10. Moments of Exile (Coda)

Cat#

FRKWYS14

Artist

Tashi Wada with Yoshi Wada and Friends

Title

FRKWYS Vol. 14 – Nue

Genre

minimal / mythological / familial

Release date

September 28, 2018

Formats

LP / CD / Digital
Vinyl Is Not Returnable

Box Lot

LP – 40
CD – 23 Inner, 46 Master Carton



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