

Loren Connors

Blues: The “Dark Paintings” of Mark Rothko REISSUE



Release date May 12, 2015

Catalog# FV90

Format LP

Packaging Regular jacket

UPC 656605409016

Limited 800

Box lot 25

Genre Avant blues

Key markets Brooklyn (hometown)

RIYL Grouper, John Fahey, Julia Holter, Keiji

Haino, Blind Willie Johnson

Vinyl is non-returnable

Territory restrictions None



“Blues: The ‘Dark Paintings’ of Mark Rothko” is one of Loren Connors’ most cherished and sought after albums. Originally released in a hand-made edition of around 300 copies on Connors’ own St. Joan label in January 1990 under the name Guitar Roberts -- this album has been unavailable in any form until now.

At the time of its release, Connors was still an inscrutable guitarist whose matchless and alien rendering of the blues was just gaining recognition despite more than two dozen solo and collaborative releases since 1978. Connors’ classic, song-based “In Pittsburgh” had only been available for three months when “Blues” welcomed the new decade. It would be the first of four solo albums issued by Connors that year and distilled the blues form into bleak, minimalist lines and tone; a compound of influences spanning Louisiana guitarist **Robert Pete Johnson** to painter **Mark Rothko**.

For this reissue, the audio has been restored to Connors’ specifications of how these seven instrumentals were originally intended to sound. Cover art is an untitled 1969 Rothko work -- one of the paintings that influenced Connors to record this album. The original LP art and liner notes are replicated as a glossy inner sleeve. New liner notes by music historian **Byron Coley** chart Connors’ development and Rothko’s effect on the music. Pressed on pristine 150-gram vinyl by Quality Record Pressing in an edition of 800. LP includes a coupon for a full download.

Track Listing

1. Blues No. 1
2. Blues No. 2
3. Blues No. 3
4. Blues No. 4
5. Blues No. 5
6. Blues No. 6
7. Blues No. 7

Selling points

- Connors is an avant-garde legend, his singular alien take on blues is considered on par with John Fahey’s rewrite of American string music.
- Connors has been the subject of career-spanning features in Pitchfork and Red Bull Music Academy
- Connors’ previous LPs for Family Vineyard have quickly sold out.

Back Catalog

Into the Night Sky (w/ Alan Licht) CD (FV75)

Red Mars CD (FV69)

The Curse of Midnight Mary LP/CD (FV64)

The Departing of a Dream LP (FV11)

The Lost Mariner LP/CD (w/ Darin Gray) (FV2)



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