



GHOSTLY INTERNATIONAL

GI-187

Various Artists

SMM: Opiate

TRACKLIST

1. Simon Scott - Water Shadow
2. A Winged Victory For The Sullen - Ti Prego Memory Man
3. Celer - Nothing So Mystical
4. Black Swan - Passings, Heartbreak
5. Jim Hayes - This is Radio Sweden
6. EN - White
7. Pjusk - Dorsk
8. Fieldhead - 37th
9. Noveller - Bright Clouds Bloom

RELEASE BIO

SMM: Opiate is the second release in Ghostly's SMM series, which is an ongoing exploration of the evocative possibilities of sound, with a focus on classical minimalism, electronic and drone composition, film soundtracks, and fragile imaginary landscapes. *Opiate* is the follow-up to 2011's *SMM: Context*, and as with that record, it's a carefully chosen selection of music, compiled over some two years from around the world.

The record opens with Simon Scott's "Water Shadow," a luxuriant piece of beatless ambience that's like a wash of warm water or the first touch of the summer sun on your face after a long, cold winter. It's a warmth that doesn't last, though — "Ti Prego Memory Man," by A Winged Victory for the Sullen, is no less beautiful. It's a stately, alpine beauty, its chilly sounds a harbinger of things to come. Celer's "Nothing So Mystical" is more minimal still, while Black Swan's "Passing Heartbreak" brings whispers of humanity, its sound coalescing out of a atmospheric whirl of vocal textures.

The wryly titled "This is Radio Sweden," by Jim Haynes, is all brooding background noise that's shot through with what sounds like an old-fashioned telephone engaged tone, a track that seems shot through with connotations of absence and loss. EN's "White" is both somber and somehow transportive, setting plucked chords from what sounds like a banjo over a glistening synth figure, while Pjusk's "Dorsk" slows to a sort of stasis, with only the faintest of basslines to indicate any sign of life. Fieldhead's "37th" is like a slow, mindful from such a reverie, and Noveller's "Bright Cloud Blooms" brings the cycle to a close with another brief flush of precious warmth.

As a whole, the compilation seems to follow a narrative arc, descending through a series of stages into near-complete stillness, and then slowly ascending back to where it began. As a whole, the experience is certainly evocative of the opiated sensation evoked by the record's title — but really, it's a compilation that invites you to find your own meaning in it, or simply to appreciate the beauty of its music and escape the world for a while.



RELEASE INFO

Catalogue Number: GI-187

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Release Date: October 29th, 2013 (North America)

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Genre: Electronic, Ambient

Vinyl is not returnable

Box Lot: LP-12, CD-45

List Price CD: \$14.98

List Price LP: \$17.98

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Follow up to 2011's *SMM: Context*; the first in the SMM Compilation Series
- Past praise on the series by Pitchfork, Exclaim!, Resident Advisor, De:Bug, CMJ, and more
- LP is limited to 800 copies, thick stock, inner art sleeve

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