



GHOSTLY INTERNATIONAL
GI-270

Xeno & Oaklander *Topiary*

TRACKLIST

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Marble | 5. Palms |
| 2. Virtues and Vice | 6. Chevron |
| 3. Baroque | 7. Chimera |
| 4. Topiary | 8. Worldling Worlds |
| | 9. Topiary II |

RELEASE BIO

Ghostly International presents Xeno & Oaklander's new full-length album *Topiary*. In their fifth album to date, the Brooklyn based girl / boy electronic duo explores themes of arcana and electricity.

The title '*Topiary*' refers to a highly ornamental hand sculpted garden such as Levins Hall in Cumbria UK or the stately grounds of Versailles. Pruned and fashioned into forms, shrubs and trees are turned into semblances of abstract and natural shapes - nature imitating nature, much to the delight of dreamers and romantics. The band, Sean McBride and Liz Wendelbo, views the album as a journey through the manifold hallways of electro magnetic architecture and enchanted landscapes.

The sound of *Topiary* is rich and deep; like a 60s French Pop album shot through a prism of late renaissance chamber music. Liz Wendelbo's voice seems haunted by ghosts of YéYé girls, Françoise Hardy's whispers set against a glorious backdrop of blaring synthetic horns and organs.

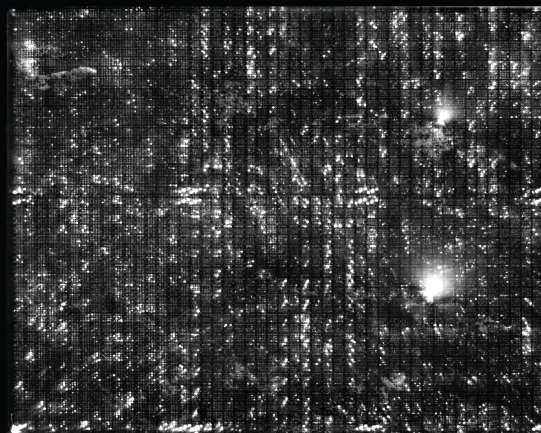
Known for their signature analog synth sound, Xeno & Oaklander have been quoted as referring to their synths as elemental: fire is what powers energy, voltage and electricity. Electro magnetism is electric energy, like lightning in the sky: here it is controlled by switches and buttons, shaped by filters and envelopes, and travels through patch cables and modules to create synthetic creations of classical instruments: pianos, brass, guitars, percussions. The result is orchestral and textured.

A room - a sound studio is often referred to as 'the room': it has a sound, a history, and ghosts in its machines. Xeno & Oaklander's new album was recorded at the Tom Tom Club / Talking Heads' Clubhouse Studio deep in the woods of New England. Known for their analog synthesizer sound, Xeno & Oaklander plugged in their entire arsenal of synths into the Clubhouse array of analog outboard gear. They used their signature style of recording: the album was recorded as a live session, but this time in a bracketed amount of time and in one place. Everything was arranged, recorded and mixed in a month at the Clubhouse. Liz and Sean were intent on creating a sense of dimensionality with this recording by exploring the idea of 3D in sound: left, right, back and front as well as up and down. Room tone is present in the recordings themselves, so that 'the room' is present in the songs, and so that there is a trace of the space in the sound itself: making this a unique recording. The vinyl and Cd are mixed seamlessly like a constant pulse of electric energy.

Metaphysics, the study of being, time and space is a long time fascination for Xeno & Oaklander and the inspiration for part of their band name. Xeno was a pre-Socratic philosopher whose view on the world tipped it upside down and inside out: he is known for his paradoxes; in short what you see is not what you get, life is a chimera, an illusion, a matter of perception. It is this inversion that captures the imagination of the band. Day vs. night, hot vs. cold, sunshine vs. moonlight, glitter vs. silver, chemistry vs. alchemy, stasis vs. movement; these are themes that permeate their lyrics and sounds.

The artwork by Liz Wendelbo echoes the electro magnetic theme with what looks like a starry night sky or skyscraper at night. It is a blown up X-Ray of protein photographed through an electron microscope - what is called X-Ray crystallography. In Liz's words what is deep inside of us is a reflection of what is above us: and electricity runs through it all.

XENO & OAKLANDER



Topiary

RELEASE INFO

Catalogue Number: GI-270

Format: CD, LP

Release Date: June 3rd, 2016

UPC-CD: 804297827025

UPC-LP: 804297827018

UPC-LP (Colored vinyl): 804297827001

Genre: Electronic, Alternative

Box Lot: LP- 10, CD-35

Territory Restrictions: None

Vinyl Is not returnable

POINTS OF INTEREST

- RIYL Broadcast, Chromatics, Kraftwerk
- Xeno & Oaklander's fifth studio album
- Recorded at Tom Tom Club / Talking Heads' Clubhouse Studio on all analogue gear
- "Half-moon" vinyl (half clear, half black) is limited to 750 copies worldwide.
- Vinyl housed in printed inner sleeve inside jacket with deboss stamp

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LP UPC



Colored LP UPC



CD UPC



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