

# Savant—Artificial Dance

The story of electronic music pioneer **K. Leimer** continues with a focus on his auteurist studio project **Savant**.

Compiling the standalone album, 1983's *The Neo Realist (At Risk)*, with Savant's debut 12" and a grip of compilation and unreleased tracks, *Artificial Dance* documents Leimer's complete collaborative venture into the unpredictable realities of music, exploring the gulf between what is expected by its creators and what is eventually - and eternally - committed to tape.

Savant was designed by Leimer to tap into entropic truths, asserting an uncaged counterpart to the loop-based minimalism he produced in isolation (recently surveyed on RVNG Intl.'s *A Period of Review (1975-1983)*). Aligning himself with the Cage-ean principles of chance operations and musical contingency, Savant was a band sans jam. Allegorically, a blindfolded collaboration whose happenstance source music Leimer would sample, loop and sculpt at will.

Leimer was creatively autonomous to the point of being a *persona absentia* in Seattle's 80s rock scene. Unconcerned by social status, Leimer enlisted musicians from experimental and post-punk groups in the area to come record as Savant at his home studio, Tactical. Among them were ambient composer Marc Barreca, John Foster (founder of *Op Magazine* - the experimental music publication), Jim and David Keller of the New Flamingos, and their bandmate Alex Petit. Others, like Roy Finch and Dennis Rea, came from a similar orbit.

Even with these musicians at his beck and call, Leimer implemented a disarming musical strategy. Savant would have no fixed line up and often musicians would be asked to play instruments far outside their forté. Leimer would however give loose rhythmic direction for the musicians to develop spontaneously against click-tracks. When the performance locked in with Leimer listening at the controls, he'd capture it to tape. These moments became the soul of Savant and the combusive elements that would variegate its timbres.

Savant tonally operates in a space between **This Heat's** dark primitivism and the found sound collage of **Brian Eno & David Byrne's** *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts*. These analogies are simply stylistic, as the narrative behind *The Neo-Realist's* production makes clear Leimer was concocting via more alchemic means, avoiding genre aspirations by looking for accidental moments of musical intrigue and discovery. Leimer explains this process in the collection's liner notes: "I was looking for flaws, for faults to act as the stand-out features of the music."

Far from a provisional stab at avant-garde sensibilities, Savant represents Leimer's repudiation of ambient music's passive side. *Artificial Dance* embodies a perfectionist's family portrait of outré musicians conforming to Leimer's nonconformist musical ethos. Fitting for its name, Leimer created conditions for asocial brilliance with Savant, materializing an outward offering from an inward studio and a collaboration of audacious invention.

## Additional Information

- Hometown: Seattle, WA
- Key Markets: New York, London, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, Berlin, Austin, Chicago, Tokyo
- RIYL: David Byrne & Brian Eno's *My Life In the Bush of Ghosts*, Lifetones' *For A Reason*, Holger Czukay's *On The Way To The Peak Of Normal*, Muslimauze
- The complete works of **K. Leimer's** "artificial band," **Savant**. Including rare and unreleased music.
- Follows the well-received 2014 collection *A Period of Review (1975 - 1983)*, focused on Leimer's solo work.
- Expert tape restoration and mastering by Bob Weston at Chicago Mastering Servcies.
- Extensive liner notes and artist interviews were overseen by **Aaron Leitko**.
- Double LP packaging features unique reverse flap exterior, full color Eurosleeve, 16 page booklet and download card.
- CD packaging features unique reverse flap exterior, full color inner sleeve, and 20 page booklet



## Track Listing

01. Using Words
02. Indifference
03. The Neo-Realist
04. Shadow In Deceit
05. The Shining Hour
06. Knowledge And Action
07. Heart Of Stillness
08. Stationary Dance
09. Sensible Music
10. Deceit In Passion
11. The Radio
12. Facility
13. Falling At Two Speeds
14. Fault Index

## Info

Cat#—ReRVNG07  
Artist—Savant  
Title—Artificial Dance  
Genre—Tape Spliced Funk / Fourth-World / Reactive Ambient

## Release dates

July 10, 2015

## Formats

DBL LP / CD / Digital  
Vinyl Is Not Returnable

## Box Lot

DBL LP—35  
CD—75

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