

Julia Holter — EKSTASIS



Julia Holter's second album, *Ekstasis*, is a collection of songs written and recorded across the span of three years in Los Angeles, California.

Ekstasis marks a return to the playful searching of her 2007 *Eating the Stars* EP, but guided by newly-learned disciplines, slightly better technology, and nearly limitless home recording time. Holter's songwriting stems from a mythological reverence of that which is incomprehensibly beautiful. *Stars* was a first attempt at musically transcribing this beauty, while discovering the honest enjoyment of unadulterated creativity. Holter's critically acclaimed debut album *Tragedy* (Leaving Records, 2011) embraced *Stars* strains of shimmer, but used sparser textures in a narrative context.

While *Ekstasis* reflects the conventions of her classical training, the album is also uncannily, if unknowingly, poppy. Holter's approach to crafting the songs of *Ekstasis* centered around what she describes as, "open ear decisions: what seemed to sound best for that moment." This blindness to reference unintentionally steers *Ekstasis* along the experimental pop spectrum most commonly associated to New York's Downtown music micro-universe of the 80s, specifically the works of **Laurie Anderson** and **Arthur Russell**.

With the blindness that leads *Ekstasis*, there are also many compositional methods at play. "Marienbad" was built while playing around on a Fender Rhodes with imagined imagery of topiary gardens and scenes from the song's film namesake in mind. The entirety of "Boy in the Moon" - the Casio SK-1 noodles, melody, and lyrics - was improvised over a seven minute catharsis. The melody and lyrics for "Four Gardens" were written spontaneously while rearranging an older song on a loop pedal for a live performance. "This is Ekstasis" contains a bass line built from a medieval isorhythm technique, allowing it to maintain a sense of repetition, but shift slightly with every turn.

2xLP track listing

A1. Marienbad
A2. Our Sorrows
A3. Für Felix
B1. Moni Mon Amie
B2. Goddess Eyes I
B3. Four Gardens
C1. Boy in the Moon
C2. Goddess Eyes II
D1. In the Same Room
D2. This Is Ekstasis

CD track listing

1. Marienbad
2. Our Sorrows
3. In the Same Room
4. Boy in the Moon
5. Für Felix
6. Goddess Eyes II
7. Moni Mon Amie
8. Four Gardens
9. Goddess Eyes I
10. This Is Ekstasis

Additional information

- Julia Holter's *Tragedy* album was included in several 2011 year end lists, including **NPR**, **WIRE**, **FACT**, and **Boomkat's** #1 album of the year
- Touring Europe in May & June and the US in August & September
- *Ekstasis* press coverage confirmed for **NPR**, **Pitchfork**, **The Fader**, **Mojo**, **Uncut**, **FACT**, **Resident Advisor**, **Dazed & Confused**, **WIRE**, **Spex** (Germany), **Tsugi**, etc.
- "In the Same Room" named **Pitchfork Best New Music** alongside a *Rising* feature
- Upcoming videos for "In the Same Room" directed by **Hilary Walsh** and "Boy In The Moon" directed by **Vincent Moon**
- *Ekstasis* was mixed by **Cole M. Greif-Neill**, formerly of **Ariel Pink's Haunted Graffiti**. Presently a member of **Nite Jewel** and **The Samps**.

Cat # RVNGNL14

Artist Julia Holter

Title Ekstasis

Genre Alternative, Classical, Experimental

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Vinyl Is Not Returnable

Box Lot 2xLP: 25, CD: 75

2xLP



CD



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