

# Sugai Ken

## UkabazUmorezU

With a melodic cluster dripping into a pool of dark water, *UkabazUmorezU*'s arrival ripples as an apex in **Sugai Ken's** continued construction of a deeply resonant, enveloping sound world. Upon contact, *UkabazUmorezU* gently and generously unfurls across aural alleys and streets mundanely but mystically detailed with recontextualized Japanese rituals and tradition.

Sugai's compositional language took its most cohesive form in the producer's almost decade long career with the 2016 album *On The Quakefish*. Evolving the sound design intuited on 2010's *ToKiShiNe* and 2014's *Tada, Quakefish* utilized an all-seeing, all-knowing edit for wider screens and wilder properties. The sable stage set for *UkabazUmorezU* is both bottomless and forgiving, a rich soil for new experiments to grow in Ken's self-described "style that conjures [the] subtle and profound ambience of night in Japan."

A lived experience of traditional Japanese music's conversation with environment, and vice versa, forms the melodic make-up and metaphysical philosophy conditioning *UkabazUmorezU*. Upon imagining a landscape, Sugai decomposes the image (and the images within the image) and replaces it with a sound representation - an artifactual terrain, tethered to but abstracted from the natural world.

The eleven pieces which form *UkabazUmorezU* dovetail meaningfully with the invented album title, roughly translating to "slow and steady wins the race." Made up of recordings sourced and appropriated from the local performing arts of Kanagawa, Japan (where Sugai lives), his daily surroundings, and Sugai's tool kit of electronic synthesis, *UkabazUmorezU* evokes tranquil patience while never settling into a single style or still of sound for too long.

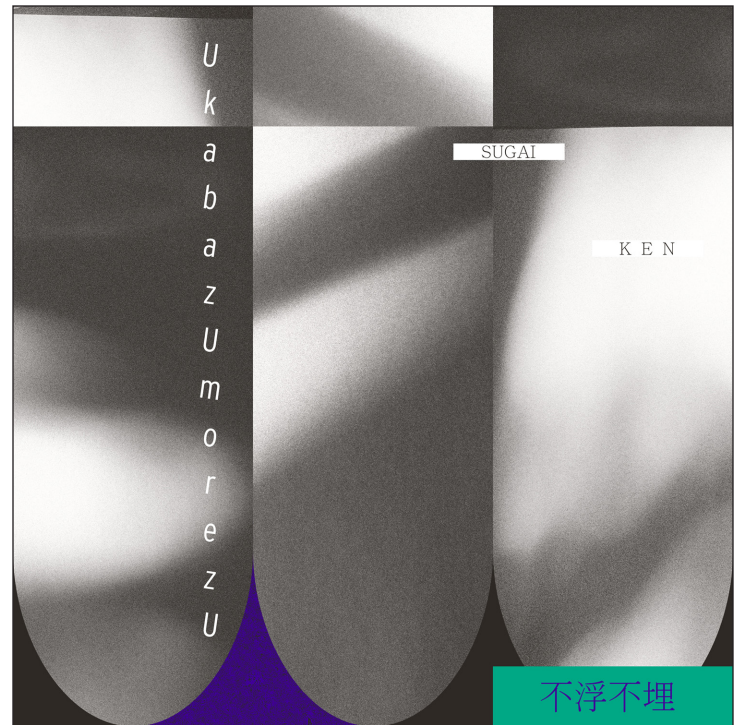
Sugai Ken's upbringing among a generation of Japanese artists exposed to Western culture becomes the basis for another part of *UkabazUmorezU*'s ritualistic experimentation. On "Sawariyanagi," for example, an atmosphere inspired by the yokai monster Yanagi Onna finds itself speaking through a Western electroacoustic motif. Elsewhere on "Ganoubiyoshi" a processed "hoarsely voice of the elderly" is treated with a reverence reserved for the realm of symphonic music - the micro and the macro receive equal amounts of mindful care in the cerebral ceremony of Sugai Ken.

The profundity of *UkabazUmorezU*'s nighttime arrives, in part, upon the idea that what remains hidden is limitless. While one might be horrified by the concept of negative space, Sugai views this obscured horizon as an invitation for a tempered type of spontaneity. A heartfelt connection to his personal trajectory and the folk history of his country allows Sugai Ken's *UkabazUmorezU* to calmly throw itself headlong into a jumbled sound experience sometimes beyond our conscious comprehension.

Sugai Ken's *UkabazUmorezU* arrives October 20, 2017 on LP, CD, and digital formats via RVNG Intl. A cassette mixtape, *Japanese Avant-Elektricitet & Hypocotyl Mix with RVNG INTL.*, will be offered in limited edition through mail order with the vinyl version of the album. Sugai Ken joins Visible Cloaks for a series of shows in his native country this November.

### Additional Information

- Sugai Ken is a Japanese musician and composer currently residing in Kanagawa, Japan. Sugai began recording and performing under his moniker in 2004.
- *UkabazUmorezU*, Sugai's first release on RVNG Intl., follows his 2016 LP *On The Quakefish* on Lullabies For Insomniacs.
- On *UkabazUmorezU*, Sugai sourced recordings from the local performing arts of Kanagawa, Japan, his daily surroundings, and the tools of electronic synthesis utilized by Sugai in his home
- NYC (by way of Japan) visual artist Kiyotaka Sumiyoshi will contribute two animated videos and other visual artifacts in companionship to *UkabazUmorezU*'s sonic folklore
- Sugai has earned great acclaim for his mix series, *Japanese Avant-elektricitet & Hypocotyl Mix*, featured on NTS, Secret Thirteen, and limited CD-R formats. RVNG will release the third volume in limited cassette edition to mail order customers.
- Sugai will embark on tour of Japan alongside fellow label artists Visible Cloaks in November 2017, during which he will explore inventive and imaginative forms of live field recording and electronic hybridization.



### Track Listing

1. Wakihi
2. Wochikaeri to Uzume
3. Shinobine
4. Okera
5. Mei
6. Ganoubiyoshi
7. Doujiri
8. Katsura
9. Kugutsu Biwa
10. Sawariyanagi
11. Suzunarikibushi

### Cat#

RVNGNL40

### Artist

Sugai Ken

### Title

UkabazUmorezU

### Genre

Nocturnal / Mystic / Ceremonious / Hushed

### Release date

October 6, 2017

### Formats

LP / CD / Digital  
Vinyl Is Not Returnable  
Non Exportable

### SRP

LP- \$18.98  
CD- \$14.98

### Box Lot

LP- 50 Master Carton, 25 Inner  
CD- 120 Master Carton, 30 Inner

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### UPC

LP- 716670165856



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