

Colin Self

Siblings

Colin Self's *Siblings* is a proposal for interdependence, critical joy, and an expansive sense of being. As the lyrics beam, "I used to live as an anomaly... no explanation biologically," so siblings share hidden language, lore, and identity. On *Siblings*, ecstatic voices and sound knot to form new ideals of kinship, emerging as horizontal relations for multi-species flourishing.

Colin Self challenges boundaries of perception with his art, music, and performances. Inspired by the work of **Donna Haraway** (*Cyborg Manifesto*, *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*), *Siblings* is the final segment of the six-part opera series entitled *Elation*. Informed by Self's exploration of the ways of knowing, *Siblings* places a non-biological family at its center. The characters, bonded by curiosity and caring, generate ways of collectively coming together on a damaged planet. Self uses *Siblings* to define this familial experience through sound and its soundmakers.

From years experiencing Riot Grrrl shows around Self's early home of Oregon to his involvement in the New York City-based performance collective **Chez Deep**, Self expands the DIY ethos to a space and mind of Do-It-Together. Feeding into *Siblings* is **XHOIR**, Self's ongoing project of group vocal workshops for singing and listening, and a broad cast of kin including but not limited to **Michael Beharie**, **Greg Fox** (drums), **Martine Syms** (words and voice), **The Mivos Quartet**, and **Raul De Nieves** (cover art).

On "Story," *Siblings'* opening moment, breath and beats emerge as echoes within a vast, heaving chamber, sound conjured and cajoled into a new, blistered terrain. "Foresight" urges us toward a worlding - a break from the planet we've disregarded: "I see on my screen all the doubt, where it comes from, why you trust in no one. I see a new light." While the unhinged form of "Ante-Strategy" lays the sonic compost for a Belurussian political poem, written with **Tanya Zamirouskaya** and **Anastasia Kolas**, Self tends toward elaboration and excesses in a "joyous rendering of survival."

Siblings splits sides with "Transitions," a pluri-vocal burst called forth from interstellar margins to put uncounted bodies in motion. Repetitions of "I commit to you" end with "We commit to you." Self utilizes theoretical vocabulary to encourage germination of a new language. "Research Sisters" will make their own myths and forge their own families, the work's fire sparking frenetic, ecstatic voices flashing back and forth in stereo. The gathering of choral voices lift up the melancholic words of "The Great Refusal" over pillowy layers of strings and stumbling, sputtering showers of keyboards.

Siblings is Self's second full-length release following 2015's *Elation*. *Siblings* has been performed iteratively and internationally with humor, drama, and fierce song. *Siblings'* **MoMA PS1** staging in 2018 featured black-light messaging, countdown clocks, books on rope, and dancers adorned with swirling prints and LED lanterns. Self follows, in Haraway's words, towards a "commitment to the finicky, disruptive details of good stories that don't know how to finish." Future performances will likely carry away in the best way.

Artist Highlights

- **Colin Self** is an American artist and composer from the Pacific Northwest and based in Berlin, Germany.
- Self's portfolio of performance projects spans the DIS Magazine boy band **HD-BOYZ**, the NYC-based drag collective **Chez Deep**, **Holly Herndon's A/V Trio** that toured with **Radiohead** in 2016, and co-writing the operetta *The Fool (Elation V)* with Whitney Biennial 2017 artist **Raul De Nieves**, which was presented at The Kitchen NYC in 2017.
- Self runs **Xhoir**: non-utilitarian vocal workshops for group singing and listening.
- Self follows up his self-released 2015 album *Elation* with *Siblings*, Self's second record release and his first project for RVNG Intl.
- *Siblings* proposes an alternative means of relation, interfacing with biological and technological software. As the final chapter of Self's speculative sci-fi operetta *Elation* series, *Siblings* has been performed iteratively and internationally with humor, drama, and fierce, earnest song at internationally renowned spaces such as NYC's MoMA PS1 in the spring of 2018.
- *Siblings* will be released October 19, 2018 in limited vinyl and digital editions.



Track Listing

1. Story
2. Foresight
3. Survival
4. Quorum Feat. Aunt Sister
5. Ante-Strategy
6. Stay With The Trouble (For Donna)
7. Emblem
8. Transitions
9. Research Sister
10. Uncounted
11. The Great Refusal

Cat#

RVNGNL42

Artist

Colin Self

Title

Siblings

Genre

communal / celebratory / extra-human

Release date

November 2, 2018

Formats

LP / CD / Digital
Vinyl Is Not Returnable

Box Lot

LP - 25 Inner / 50 Outer



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