

Visible Cloaks

Lex

Visible Cloaks' *Lex* proposes a utopian dream language and its accompanying sound, a limitless, delicate space developed by fluid musical techniques and subconscious voices. The six pieces comprising *Lex* simulate a more peaceful future, their mysteries telling a new tale in an unknown but imaginable melodic language.

Visible Cloaks are the Portland-based musicians **Spencer Doran** and **Ryan Carlile**. Utilizing software-based composition rooted in randomization, MIDI-translation and chance operations, the duo has established an improbable humanist mode of music from esoteric processes.

Following their self-titled debut album, Visible Cloaks offered *Reassemblage*, an album simultaneously honoring the post-**Yellow Magic Orchestra** school of avant musical adventure and diverging from it. Veering from the paths cleared by Japanese and Italian electronic pop and ambient artists of the mid-80s / early-90s, *Reassemblage* established Visible Cloaks' own camp in a forest of deep sound canopied by trees grown from synthetic seeds.

The sound represented on *Lex* is webbed with sculptural arrangements and interpolated by the sounds of alien speech. These strange and serene utterances were created by Doran feeding a chain of multiple dialects and accents through a language translation software to create an auditory poetry of an evolved place and time. *Lex* features both the final version of this process and earlier, simplified experiments with it ("Keys").

"The idea - building on 'fourth world' or 'global village' type concepts - was to create a projected language that was a fusion of many," Doran explains. "The result was a very disorienting form of non-language that amplifies the lapses in meaning that occur with the inaccuracy of auto-translation software."

Permutate Lex, a companion short film to *Lex* made by Visible Cloaks in collaboration with artist **Brenna Murphy** (who also created the artwork for *Reassemblage* and several virtualist videos for the album), is an integral counterpart, both visualizing an aesthetic alive with human form and guiding the sonic experience of the first five pieces: "Wheel," "Frame," "Transient," "Keys," and title track "Lex."

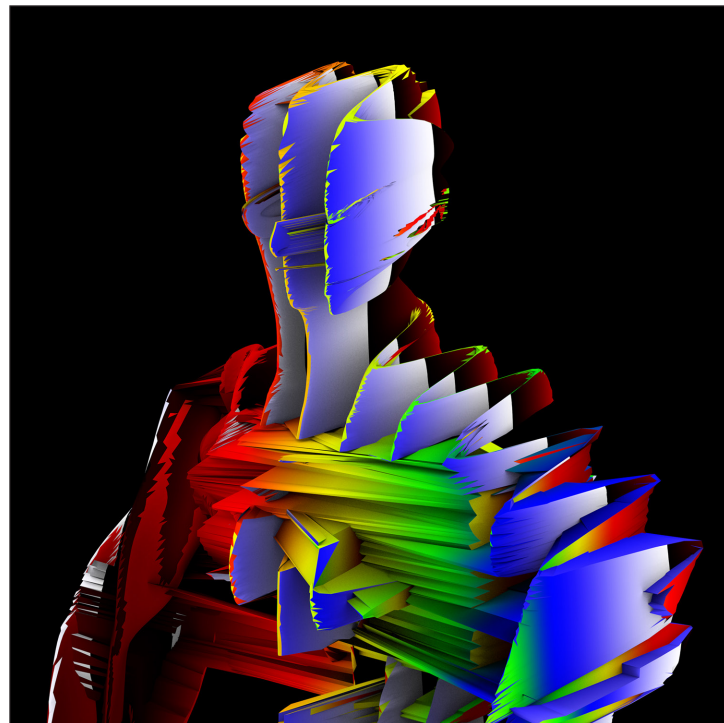
"World," the longest piece presented on *Lex*, is redrawn from a generative composition originally produced for an installation Doran made with Murphy. The original work incorporates LFOs and randomized MIDI-information, and was intended to variate indefinitely. In this 'fixed' version, "World" provides a more conclusive view into the impossible musical environments Visible Cloaks make real. Longer than any track on *Reassemblage*, "World" expresses the deepening, patient intimations suggested by *Lex*.

Doran says the *Lex* "attempts to communicate the essence of a world distant enough that it can't be captured or comprehended from the present, appearing only surreal and inscrutable." The statement reveals a broader musical philosophy fueling this new moment; an awakened voice woven through complex melodic shapes and phrases establishes communication between listeners and the unknown, here presented by Visible Cloaks as sounds coloring the very edge of the envisionable.

Visible Cloaks' *Lex* is available December 8 in LP and digital formats. An exclusive CD version of *Lex* featuring the audio of *Permutate Lex* will be available around Visible Cloaks Japanese November / December 2017 tour with **Sugai Ken**.

COME! MEND!

On behalf of Visible Cloaks, a portion of the proceeds from purchase will be donated to Forest Peoples, an organization benefiting indigenous forest peoples' rights to defend their lands and livelihoods. forestpeoples.org



Track Listing

01. Wheel
02. Frame
03. Transient
04. Keys
05. Lex
06. World

Cat#

RVNGNL44

Artist

Visible Cloaks

Title

Lex

Genre

Avant-Garde / Ethnoambient / Interplanetary
Folk Music / Musique Plastique

Release date

December 8, 2017

Formats

Mini-LP / Digital
Vinyl Is Not Returnable

Box Lot

Mini-LP - 50 Outer, 25 Inner

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