



NIOBE

"BLACKBIRD'S ECHO"

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INFO

Blackbird's Echo is the title of the fifth full length album by Cologne, Germany based **Niobe**.

Yvonne Cornelius, the composer behind Niobe prepared many of the pieces on this album in 2007 in her home studio in Cologne. With the help of Tom Steinle (Tomlab) the production and recordings were realised in the reknown Studio G by Tony Maimone (Pere Ubu, Home & Garden) in Brooklyn, New York. Across several weeks most of the songs you can hear on this album were arranged, recorded and mixed down. The finishing touches were given in Cologne, once Yvonne was fully installed again in her home studio – contributing once more all those little tweaks so many Niobe albums have carried before and that make a big part of the underlying magic of her work.

The difference of these new recordings, all of them impregnated once more with Yvonne's breathtaking and singular vocals, lies within the fact that *Blackbird's Echo* adds a new element to the exotic, strangely artificial Niobe character we know from previous albums: now large instrumental parts are balancing out the electronic sound design with its many tricks and enchantments.

Aki Onda who was involved as a guest producer has brought together 2 handful of the best New York musicians to contribute elements to *Blackbird's Echo* that spring from a variety of musical backgrounds but that all share the mastery and the passion of Niobe's music.

Trevor Dunn on contrabass, Shelley Burgeon on the harp, Clifton Hyde at the guitar and Ches Smith on the drums, New York's most reknown basstuba-player TubaJoe, der amazing bass player Shahzad Ismaily, Doug Wieselmann on bass clarinet, and last not least Eyvind Kang who contributed a wonderful string arrangement, and DJ Olive who is widely known for his own work. For the song "Time is Kindling", a song about the telepathy between lovers, David Grubbs contributed lyrics, vocal harmonies and was playing organ.

All contributing musicians initially started to work from the prerecorded material that Yvonne started to record in Cologne. Most of the lyrics were provided from Yvonne and her co-writers known from previous albums St. Lindemer, Roberto Cabot and Janeta Schude. The guideline for all the musicians involved was to come up with their own versions and visions of the songs.

The result is colorful and experimental, singer-songwriter oriented but very audacious, eccentric and rythmically complex and shows Niobe's full potential in a world where dreams still play a big part of the awakening in the memory of *Blackbird's Echo*.

TRACKLISTING

1. **Silicon Soul**
2. **You Have A Gift**
3. **Time Is Kindling**
4. **Dj Olive plays**
5. **Blackbirds Echo**
6. **Lovely Day In Exshaw**
7. **A Shark**
8. **Fever**
9. **Gnomes And Pixies**
10. **My Conversion**
11. **Ava Gardner At The Swimming Pool**
12. **Blue Wolf**

Running time 43:43 min

FACTS

- Niobe's fifth studio album
- Produced in NYC at Studio G (Tony Maimone / Pere Ubu) with Aki Onda as guest producer and reknown New York Jazz musicians
- Includes collaborations with Dj Olive and David Grubbs



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