



01. Saint Abdullah - Zeynab
02. DJ Haram - Overeager
03. Khan El Rouh - Mount Qaf
04. OkyDoky - Mother's Milk
05. Hello Psychaleppo - 100=1
06. Rafael Aragon & Stas - Ik Vari Do Vari
07. Nazal - Pigment Liner
08. Adam Jawad - Agnostikh
09. Praed - Pyramids in the Sky
10. Miss Machine - Desire

LP/DIG

'Stazy is short for ecstasy.' says Mettani, founder of the **Arabstazy Collective**. *'We are not police of anybody, nor of any group. The music does not belong to anyone.'* Their history is complex and impenetrable, with ramifications that stretch far beyond from the Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Tunisian Arabstazy Collective, a multidisciplinary artistic platform dedicated to the inter-connection between heritage, identity, culture, and digital arts in the Arab world, returns with the second of three volumes from the compilation series "Under Frustration" released by InFiné/Shouka on the 13th of September, and as for Vol.1 release, this time the **NGO Basmeh & Zeitooneh** will receive a share of the benefits.

The "**Under Frustration**" project takes stock of the contemporary Arab electronic scene, and highlights its astonishing diversity, by deconstructing Western clichés that are still fantasizing about a culturally homogenous Arab world. In a context of post-revolutionary disillusion, this ambitious trilogy sets itself as a manifesto of a new, futuristic, underground wave that aims to uplift the Arab voice, once again.

With this new release, Arabstazy allows the listener to walk among Shiite, Shaabi or Stambali lands - revealing new mystical sounds, reserved for trance ceremonies and ancestral rituals; all vivid in the eyes of the collective members, musicians, producers, videographers and photographers, nowadays, scattered between the United States, Tunisia, Germany, France, Sweden, Irak, Libanon and Poland.

Mettani, Arabstazy's founder, sees *'the collective as a medium to keep questioning the meaning and the relevance of the supposed Arab unity, by exploring and facing the way the Arab world is perceived, but also how it perceives itself, perceives the others and perceives its own perception of itself.'*

By standing for what they believe, they push boundaries in creating a new wave of North African and Middle Eastern Futurism: *'Assuming that our mosaic identity, plunges our roots into the future, highlighting the traditions of the countries from which we come from with the desire to reinterpret them. To create a new artistic language, free of its Orientalist and colonialist prejudices...'*

Mettani has devoted more than a year to research and uplift this second release to excellence. In a new perspective of selecting new producers based in the United States, he aims to enrich Arabstazy's manifesto by representing the diversity, heterogeneity, and complexity that defines the Arab world.

This Vol.2 sees the musical eclecticism of Saint Abdullah, Dj Haram. Khan El Rouh, Okydoky, Hello Psychaleppo, Rafael Aragon & Stas, Nazal. Adam Jawad, Praed, and Miss Machine - all combining profound personal sounds that establish a new language of a nouvelle vague of the Arab underground futurism. A lot of the artists featured are in exile in countries that have adopted them and shape their music consciousness as Saint Abdullah from Iran to Brooklyn; **Khan El Rou** from Syria to Sweden; Hello Psychaleppo that moved to Minnesota; and Nazal that left Tunisia for Poland and then France.

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These influences are extremely poignant in their music productions that are deeply determined from almost a globalized approach that mixes their heritage to a new technological observant view of what music can achieve nowadays.

Some tracks are driven by extreme strength and power which is a product of the Arab fire that brought back the concept of revolution as an existential meaningful way of living. Arabstazy owns the unique ability to shift the revolution from an image on the streets into sounds that are captivating, rare, vigorous and hypnotic.

Dj Haram with her track *Overeager* blends ancestral rhythms to a new young approach, a new rhythm that defines a younger generation of young producer that embrace their culture and heritage in unique ways.

Saint Abdullah with his track *Zeynab*, for example also, exhilarates sounds and landscape with the combination of vocals and beats that recall almost lost animal melodies that speak directly to our bodies and its movements.

Hello Psychaleppo with *100=1*, also, combines Arabic music theory and rhythms with electronic music tools and vocals creating a harmonious blend that is Electro-Tarab, a unique genre in which he is a unique pioneer.

Arabstazy, once again, owns and proves us its unique intelligence to understand that our own cultural musical heritage is the key to process and understand our world. And this is important because we stand in a world in which the creative gesture is regularly constrained. Constrained by dictatorship - political, social or religious. Constraint as a thread, stretched between different artists who cross, each one in their own way, the creative frustration.

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