



SECRET OF ELEMENTS

Monumentum InFiné

CAT NO: IF3057

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Self-trained instrumentalist and activist from northern Germany, young producer Johann Pätzold, also known as Secret Of Elements on a previous #Explorer compilation, makes an alluring debut for InFiné with a mini-album tainted with sweet and enlightened melancholia. *Monumentum* is an equivocal release, the five tracks inhabited with the same generous impetus and emotional outpouring as his previous track 'The Effect of Butterfly Destiny', but this time with darkness at its core. With these new cutting and astute perspectives in mind, we decided to open the first musical chapter together.

His commitment as an activist towards the refugees and the crisis faced by Europe over the past few years, both in his hometown Rostock and throughout his travels along the Mediterranean coasts, has definitely been a great influence on his work, as well as his artistic practice and personal beliefs. *Monumentum* could be held as a materialisation of this commitment. It emphasises the discernment rather than the certainties, and teaches us to appreciate navigating through choppy water, halfway between apocalyptic ascension and surrealist levitation.

The first eponymous track sets the tone of Secret of Elements' apprenticeship from the few first seconds. Pätzold pictures a hypothetical sacred union, where the soundscapes of the Cathedrals and of the Mosques are brought to heel by unruly drum machines. Following this is 'Satan's Solution', an unholy waltz haunted by field recordings from his recent trips, whose piano movements sometimes melodious and seductive, sometimes cold and mechanical, reflect the internal conflicts each one of us is going through. The mini album reaches its emotional momentum. The regenerating synthesizers and compelling drum roll of 'Civility Decrease' offer a sustained breath of fresh air to the listener. 'Odyssee 2015 (Part 2 of 1)' has been inspired by Secrets of Element's journey to the Mediterranean Sea searching for the mother of a young refugee girl received in Germany. The track intersperses spectral sounds with mental arpeggios and shapes a deep homage to the great myth of exile. 'Ascension' introduces riveting layers of Violins, building over an organic backdrop to give a breath-taking finale to this mini-album.

ABOUT

Johann Pätzold aka Secret of Elements is a pianist, multi-instrumentalist and producer from Rostock, northern Germany. Seeking therapy through composition, music helps him to apprehend reality. It was during his stay in a mental hospital while struggling with a nervous breakdown that he wrote his first album, *Minds*. His second opus, *Schizophrenia*, is about paranoia in its general sense and the NSA scandal. After releasing a track on the #Explorer compilation, young talent incubator from the French label InFiné, Johann is commissioned by Alexandre Cazac to edit, rearrange and record some elements from the 2010 original 'Versus' recordings studio session in Paris. He contributes to the album project's rebirth and is credited on the pre-production of Carl Craig's Versus LP.

Deeply involved in his local community in Rostock, Johann Pätzold is part of the social and anti-fascist project JAZ e.V. and has supported the Volkstheater activities. He has composed music for theatre, dance companies and local film productions. After joining the 'Rostock Hilft' initiative, Johann volunteered to help the refugees on the Mediterranean coasts.

Tracklist

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| 1. Monumentum | 4. Odyssee 2015 (Part 2 of 1) |
| 2. Satan's Solution | 5. Ascension |
| 3. Civility Decrease | |

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