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Nadja Stoller - Eartbound

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Tracklist

A Heart
Lazy Protector
Little Dead Bird
My Horses
Orion
Vertigo
To The End Of This Road
Earthbound
What If
Strawberry Passion

The new Album “Earthbound” from Nadja Stoller is a journey through the night. It takes you over open fields and through dense undergrowth to an inescapable and inevitable place of introspection.
That which is grounded takes off into dizzying heights, what is light weighs heavily, whilst delicacy is paired with a distorted roughness. It is grand and beautiful, disconcerting and painful, leaving you with the feeling that things will never be the same again.

The solo artist Nadja Stoller seeks out discomfort, difficulty and challenge. After her Parisian hedonistic phase which resulted in the album ‘Alchemy’ (2011) the singer and multi-instrumentalist withdrew in the winter of 2012 to an isolated place far from human civilization, the kind of place that could be located equally in the volcanic deserts of Iceland, the wide open prairies of Alabama, or in an abandoned backwater in the French Alps. During her hermit-like seclusion she encountered all kinds of creatures. But above all she faced own depths and heights, and ultimately, the eternal question of human existence.

Nadja Stoller let the words she acquired there mature over two years, gradually assembling them together with fragments of banjo, piano, keytar and autoharp, before finally recording her songs in collaboration with Samuel Baur in his studio in Bern.

What has emerged is a creation of ten very different sounding fragile songs which draw an arc from the bittersweet “A Heart” over the unfathomable “Vertigo” to the flirty “Strawberry Passion”.

These unconventional odes are enhanced in concert by Nadja Stoller’s at once elfin, then Amazonian presence. She layers sounds piece by piece on the looper in front of the audience, only in the next minute to bring everything crashing together. It is magical and surreal, yet at the same time down to earth and natural. You are left with the sense that, not far from Stoller’s isolated cabin you could meet a Björk, an Emmylou Harris or a Camille.

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Nadja Stoller

About me
I am a sponge.
I soak up everything.
Impressions and inspiration from everyday life, from art and literature, from people and their stories; all of this accumulates somewhere in the mysterious reservoirs of my psyche. These reservoirs swell up and over and the contents flow in small streams into the river that is the music.

Music is my most personal and direct form of expression. It is a natural outlet which transforms all feelings, thoughts and dreams. The essence of experiences, ideas and discoveries becomes songs. I have always considered myself a vessel, a kind of conduit. An artist who is not the creator, but rather a sentient organ that processes and forms what has been absorbed and collected. It is an acutely intuitive process. Impressions and inspiration fall into my lap, so to speak, wherever they might come from, and I see it as my calling to use the most important ones and transform them into music. It is at this point that the work begins. My second solo album “Earthbound” originated out of a silence, out of a kind of standstill that at times was hard to bear. The inspiration which normally appears organically no longer revealed itself to me. A long process of sorting, rejecting, doubts and, sometimes even despair, set in. The title “Earthbound” came about from this evolution. The double meaning of the word stirred something in me. On the one hand, “Earthbound” could mean coming to Earth from somewhere else, to arrive in the world. In this state of suspense it is up to me if I want to land or if I would rather observe from far above. On the other hand, “Earthbound” could mean captive, rooted, the feel of the ground under your feet. These two poles will attract me my entire life, driving my search for lightness and my yearning to fly whilst also striving for a place to rest, security and roots. The ten songs on my new album are the essence of my intensive quest between these two poles.

Nadja Stoller, March 2015