

AtW – Sum and subtraction PRESS_{en}

Ask The White Sum and subtraction



Tracklisting

side A

You, cloud [5.08]
Neither a moon [3.12]
Just take me to [3.09]
A millionaire tree [3.20]

side B

The battle of the happy claustorms on two strings [3.20]
Remember the future [2.44]
I'm not a place [3.56]
Fall [3.36]
Known [1.14]

Labels

EU / LP / Ammiratore Omonimo Records
JP / CD / Athor Harmonics

Format

LP/CD/Digital

Release Dates – LP 12 Oct 2018 | CD 2019

Web Utilities

<https://askthewhite.weebly.com/>
<https://askthewhite.bandcamp.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/askthewhite/>
askthewhite@gmail.com
<http://www.vonneumann.net/aor>
<http://athor-harmonics.co.jp/>

EPK – http://www.vonneumann.net/aor/AtW_SAS_Press-Kit.zip

EU Promo/Distro – Ammiratore Omonimo Records

Sum and subtraction is the first album by **Ask The White**, a project by Isobel Blank (*Ant Lion, Isobi, Vestfalia*), artist and songwriter, and Simone Lanari (*Ant Lion, Walden Waltz, Sycamore Age*), producer and composer.

Sum and subtraction has folk roots in the widest sense of the term. Songs are characterized by classical guitar and 12-string guitar wefts, interlaced in a dense and minimal fingerpicking, dialoguing with unexpected elements. Intimate lyrical melodies cyclically evolve into two voices harmonies, as arrangements expand and develop dynamically creating extremely pleasurable gems.

The complex harmonic development of the songs is combined with a deep storytelling, aimed at underlining the fragility of human beings and their innate tendency to something that elevates them spiritually. The album becomes a journey with mystical features with elements in a constant metamorphosis, drawing on the tradition of songwriting, but with no fear of delving into electronic and electroacoustic soundscapes.

Listening to these tracks you may find yourself at once in a battle between fast fiddling strings and obsessive drums, and then, immediately after, losing the sense of time, abandoning yourself to oceans of synthesizers, harmonicas and reverbs. In the same way you can be pulled back into an atmosphere of a quiet countryside house, celebrating folk dances. And in the end a naked voice drowns in electronic vocoders and glitches, announcing new directions for the future.

The contrast between sum and subtraction – the eternal struggle between opposites – is expressed both in the song's arrangements and narrative, in a constant search for a balance that seems unachievable.

Isobel's voice is the perfect guide in this incredible journey: warm, versatile and expressive; a unique interpretation, benefitting from a remarkable vocal extension and a wise use of hesitations, vibrating and broken tones, that captures the listener in an unresolved tension between elevation and loss.

Her lyrics, visionary and rich in neologisms and poetic licenses, are the skeleton of **Sum and subtraction**. Intimate and spontaneous monologues linked to personal experiences ("Just take me to", "I'm not a place") merge and alternate with surreal scenarios, rich in evocative images ("You, cloud", "A millionaire tree"), sometimes absurd, dreamy and grotesque ("The battle of the happy claustorms on two strings"), sometimes delicate, essential and dramatic ("Remember the future", "Neither a moon"). Perfect expression of the dichotomy between everyday life and abstraction – main trope of the album. The purity and essentiality of language, the lightness and fun of minting non-existent formulas ("three-doll", "creep-cold", "claustorms") or even the personification of singular Christmas battles, are all ways in which the listener will enter the captivating world of **Ask The White**.

Sum and subtraction will be released this Autumn on LP by Ammiratore Omonimo Records (AOR), a label created and managed in Rome by **vonneumann** with the intention of publishing its own records (ammiratore "omonimo" is a pun on words in Italian meaning homonymous admirer). But since vonneumann's motto is "we can do anything", one of the many things vonneumann has decided to do is the production and printing of albums that they consider incredibly beautiful. **Sum and subtraction** is not only an incredibly beautiful album, it's also the first no-vonneumann album to be released on AOR. The album will then be released on CD in Japan for Athor Harmonics, Kenichi Mori's label and music production studio based in Tokyo.