



GRAPH RABBIT

SNOWBLIND

BSR001 LP / CD / DIGITAL List Price: 16.98 / 14.98 / 9.98

Release Date: September 9, 2013

Genre: Neo-Folk / Acoustic / Ambient

Domain: Worldwide Box Lot: CD: 40 LP: 40

CD: Mini "LP" Wallet LP: Gatefold + Colored Vinyl

Track Listing: 1. My Name 2. Blackwood Tree 3. Butterscotch 4. White Birds
5. Make It Stop 6. Falling Snow 7. Only Fields 8. Whiteout

Graph Rabbit's debut album *Snowblind* is a cinematic concept record in which an unnamed character wanders through a surreal, minimalist snowscape, continually falling in and out of sleep, following birds through fields, arguing with a river and eventually just surrendering to the silence of snowfall. This album begins and ends in a world of its own making.

With a gorgeous high falsetto as sincere as it is otherworldly, singer/guitarist **Austin Donohue** deftly carries the album's ethereal theme from its bewildered start to its snowy finish. Graph Rabbit combines Donohue's finger-picked acoustic guitar with **Shy Kedmi** on analog synths, utilizing pulses and arpeggios into a sound that defies the typical associations of either of those elements. Imagine **Nick Drake** produced by **Brian Eno**.

The sound of *Snowblind* is a direct result of an intense collaboration with producer **Allen Farmelo** (The Cinematic Orchestra, Talk Normal and Mikael Jorgensen of Wilco). "When we began working together I had no idea what I was in for," explains Donohue. "For almost a year Allen made me sing the same three songs every day into my iPhone and email him those MP3s. Allen would write back long emails about every nuance until I finally delivered a track that made him cry." At that point, Farmelo and Donohue scrapped those three songs and began to conceptualize the album. Donohue, a filmmaker by training, filled a large piece of paper with a ton of images he felt strongly about; Farmelo, a minimalist at heart, circled only three: birds, trees and snow.

Minimalism continued to serve them as they stripped production down to just one voice, one finger-picked guitar, and the curiously small analog synth called a Pocket Piano. Rattling sleigh bells, twinkling glockenspiel and an Estonian handbell ensemble form a metal bridge spanning the sonic gap between the acoustic and electronic elements. Donohue's singularly beautiful voice sends it all soaring. It's a huge sound forged from just a few elements.

The first sound we hear is a warbling, minor key synth arpeggio that opens the first track, "My Name." Fittingly disorienting, Donohue's confidently finger-picked guitar enters in an unexpected rhythmic division of the arpeggio, which in turn begins to echo slightly out of time. By track three, "Butterscotch," the guitar is gone as the Pocket Pianos pulse manically, sleigh bells slash through the soundscape and Donohue sings the haunting opening line, "I watch my blood spill like butterscotch." Onward through the snow-scape the character finally makes a kind of reconciliation with this world on the standout track (and first single) "Only Fields." From within the evocative, blurry music Donohue side-steps Bob Dylan's nagging question with his own chorus: "if you ask me how it feels / there's no answer / only fields."

The album closes with the instrumental, "Whiteout", in which a Nick Drake-esque guitar pattern, an insistent synth arpeggio and slowly churning sleigh bells are assailed by swoops of white noise. It's as if the music is trying to erase itself while Graph Rabbit goes for a total whiteout.

Donohue describes the feel of the album with a cinematic analogy: "Its like, what if Dorothy decided to kick off the ruby slippers and stay in the poppy field while it snowed?"

Highlights

- **Graph Rabbit** have received great critical acclaim for their debut
- **Music** videos available for four album tracks
- **LP** is beautiful gatefold with white vinyl for first 500 copies
- **LP** includes digital download
- **CD** packaging is mini-LP style wallet
- **"Only Fields"** featured on BBC6
- **Ads** placed in key online and print media
- **Promos**, posters and POP available upon request
- **Press** campaign run in house by Butterscotch and servicing key online and print publications