

THE MYSTIC

ALBUM / PROJECT NOTES | 2022

Klaus Killisch / ambientfunk + Robert Fitterman



The Mystic is a collaborative project by Klaus Killisch / ambientfunk and Robert Fitterman, bringing together experimental music, spoken text, visual art, and moving image.

Developed through layers of electric guitar, electronic sounds, rhythmic structures, and repetition, ambientfunk's music creates a shifting space for Fitterman's voice. His lyrics for the title track assemble fragments of popular songs spanning approximately six decades, transforming familiar language into a new poetic sequence.

Released in 2022, *The Mystic* comprises an eight-track digital album and a limited-edition four-track vinyl LP accompanied by a twelve-page artist book, published by Collective Task Editions. A video by Klaus Killisch extends the project into moving image.

Digital album

8 tracks / approx. 42 minutes / 2022

- 01 Into The Magic — 4:14
- 02 Gates To The Stars — 4:00
- 03 The Mystic — 4:20
- 04 The Man From Utopia — 5:25
- 05 Another Day On Earth — 9:56
- 06 Living Is Easy — 4:19
- 07 Our Darkness — 4:00
- 08 Overture To A Holiday In Berlin — 5:53

Vinyl LP / Collective Task Editions

Side A

The Mystic

Gates To The Stars

Side B

Into The Magic

Overture To A Holiday In Berlin

12-inch vinyl LP with 12-page artist book

Running time: 18:21 min | Edition: 6 + 2 AP

Published by Collective Task Editions, 2022

Music — ambientfunk / Klaus Killisch

Text and voice — Robert Fitterman

Visuals, cover and artist book design — Klaus Killisch

Mastering and vinyl cut — Schnittecht, Dresden

Cover — screen printing

Video

A video by Klaus Killisch was created for the title track *The Mystic*. Filmed during a drive through the Erzgebirge in a snowstorm, it combines the changing winter landscape with an expanding and contracting black circle. Image and music unfold in parallel.

The Mystic

Lyrics: Robert Fitterman | Music: ambientfunk

To take you in the sun
Born like the earth over years
To promised lands
We could exist on the stars, the fears beyond
A million candles burning, far above the moon

My love was born like a setting sun
Pull in all the stars above
Spotlight, moonlight

Into the magic everywhere
Living is easy with eyes closed
And if you see what's meant to be
Don't name the day or try to say
Misunderstanding all you see
Don't come around tonight
There's a bad moon

I could never understand the wind at all
To laugh, to dance
The naked earth beneath us and the universe above
Like tiny beings you can read their address by the moon
In the world, where only time's erased
The universe reclining in your hair

Gates to the stars and mystical moons
If you follow you will see what's beyond reality
The moon by the sea in the tiny piece of
Coloured glass the sky is made of stone

The Mystic

Robert Fitterman

THE MYSTIC knows that without mysticism our lives feel dull, empty, directionless, and meaningless. The mystic is a person who is sensitive to the energies of the universe. To qualify as a mystic, one has to have had a mystical experience - or a series of mystical experiences - it really means allowing yourself to let go of your identity and just... be. Why am I here? Why are we all here? These are common questions that haunt the mystic's mind. The mystic has the ability to see the connected strings behind every action, it does not mean that they are able to fully comprehend how the universe works and why. Because of their heightened senses, the mystic has a natural curiosity about the physical and spiritual world. The mystic relies on knowledge, language, and physical senses the same as others do; however, their intuitive perceptions offer a deeper form of insight. The mystic is guided by their own experience, rather than by leaders or society - this can often make them spiritual or even political rebels. The mystic believes they are a conduit for power, not the source - they understand their insights into the universe as a borrowed gift. The mystic understands and embraces the power of love. The mystic cannot tell you what is right and what is wrong.

About the lyrics

Robert Fitterman's title-track lyrics are assembled from fragments of popular music spanning approximately six decades. Removed from their original contexts, recurring images of sun and moon, stars, earth, darkness, love, and disappearance begin to form another text.

The music of ambientfunk does not quote the original songs. Instead, it creates a new sonic space in which Fitterman's voice and displaced language become part of the composition.

Selected lyric references

The Beatles — *Strawberry Fields Forever*

Nick Drake — *Things Behind the Sun*

Creedence Clearwater Revival — *Bad Moon Rising*

T. Rex — *The Slider / Jeepster*

Leonard Cohen — *Sisters of Mercy*

Enigma — *Beyond the Invisible*

Inquisition — *Mystical Blood*

XXXTENTACION — *Moonlight*

Selected references spanning approximately six decades; not a complete source concordance.

About the artists

Klaus Killisch is a Berlin-based visual artist working across painting, drawing, installation, and moving image. He studied painting at the Berlin-Weissensee Academy of Art. His work has been presented in numerous exhibitions, including *Nationalgalerie. Eine Sammlung für das 21. Jahrhundert* at Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin. Since 2015, he has developed music under the name ambientfunk, extending his visual practice through sound, rhythm, layering, and repetition.

Robert Fitterman is a New York-based poet whose work explores conceptual and appropriative writing through found language, sampling, and recontextualization. His recent book *Creve Coeur* (Winter Editions, 2024) draws on archival documents and found texts. He teaches at New York University and is a founding member of Collective Task.

Credits

Music, visuals, video and design — Klaus Killisch / ambientfunk

Text and voice — Robert Fitterman

Vinyl LP and artist book — Collective Task Editions, 2022

Mastering and vinyl cut — Schnittecht, Dresden

Editorial text & editing: Parallel Text — Klaus Killisch × Vell