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Tracklisting:

1 Rücksturz (24:33)

2 Quitting Time (14:30)

3 La Tendresse (13:01)

Contact:

• Bureau B, Matthias Kümpflein
Tel. 0049-(0)40-881666-63,
matthias@bureau-b.com

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BERND KISTENMACHER

HEAD-VISIONS

Reissue (originally released 1986)

CD / vinyl / download

Out: Nov. 6, 2015



Key info:

- Bernd Kistenmacher, born in Berlin in 1960, seen as the pivotal figure in the so-called second Berlin School of electronic music, emulating the first which featured Klaus Schulze, Tangerine Dream and co. Kistenmacher released his first cassette in 1984 and has been making music ever since
- Kistenmacher did not like the way electronic music was developing in the Eighties, so he simply bought himself the analogue synthesizers he needed to pursue his passion: "classic" Berlin School par excellence.
- „Head-Visions“ is Kistenmacher's debut album from the year 1986
- Reissued as a digipack, vinyl and download

It was Klaus Schulze's album "Moondawn" (1976) which altered the trajectory of Kistenmacher's life when he heard it on the radio at the tender age of 16. The sequencer patterns, melody lines and soundscapes triggered all of his aesthetic receptors. From then on, this was the only kind of music he wanted to hear. He became a relentless venerator of Tangerine Dream and Klaus Schulze, particularly the latter.

But his heroes evolved, their music changed with the advent of digital sounds and midification. A fairly normal process in music which is strongly influenced by technology. But Kistenmacher was not happy with the way things were going. And if his idols were no longer making the music he loved them for, then he had to take up the challenge himself. His father had shown him how to play the piano when he was a child and he had always been fascinated by the technology of synthesizers—Kistenmacher thus decided to become a musician.

Synthesizers were prohibitively expensive, so he started to build his own modular system. But before he finished, he realised that, for one thing, he was going to have to spend inordinate sums of money and, secondly, he was not going to achieve the results he strove for unless he could get his hands on a proper synthesizer. As soon as he was able to pay for one, Kistenmacher bought a Korg Mono/Poly which would become the cornerstone of his career. That was back in 1982.

He acquired more and more equipment until, in 1984, he finally released his first cassette ("Dancing Sequences"). Kistenmacher was now using his analogue gear to create the sounds which Schulze and Tangerine Dream played at the zenith of their careers. Two further cassette productions followed ("Music from Outer Space", "Romantic Times"), as did various concerts, meeting with approval from radio stations and consumers. In 1986, the time had come for him to release his first LP: "Head-Visions". The cover art features a work by the Berlin sculptor Rainer Kriester.

The reaction was overwhelming. Radio plays, big concerts, music for fashion shows and television formats indicated to Kistenmacher that he was on the right track: repetitive sequencer patterns, soft melody arches and layered soundscapes, with rhythmic bass lines driving the music forward. Minor keys dominated. In other words: Bernd Kistenmacher embodies the spirit of the Berlin School.