



# CAMERA

## EMOTIONAL DETOX



CD / LP (incl. CD) / Digital / 16.11.2018

**BB 312**

CD 167952

4015698022551

LP 167951

4015698022582

### Tracklisting

1. Gizmo
2. Patrouille
3. Ciao Cacao
4. Himmelhilf
5. Cosm
6. Pacific One
7. Nicenstein
8. Super 8
9. Feuerwerk

### Promotion

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**Started as the so called “Krautrock Guerrilla” in 2012, six years later the Berlin combo Camera are releasing their fourth full-length album. Customarily associated with the likes of NEU! and La Düsseldorf it is time to allow Camera to break free of the krautrock tradition and accept that they are very much doing their own thing now. Motto: “It’s not repetition, it’s discipline”**

For fans of nominative determinism, there can be few more apposite appellations than Michael Drummer. He is the catalyst, the chain mail vapour trail linking everything together as he crosses the soundscape of everything captured on Camera.

The band’s moniker Camera, meanwhile, is an altogether more capricious calling card. Camera obscura. Camera lucida. From daguerrotype to digital, self-induction to selfies. The song title *Super 8* offers a potential clue to the camera in their mind’s eye. When Super 8 was introduced in 1965, it was one of the few film formats to accommodate a sound track, occupying the space between the edge of the film and the image area. Perhaps this will serve as a nice analogy when pondering where Camera’s music comes from.

*Emotional Detox* is the fourth full-length album by Camera, now a quintet, following two albums as a trio and one as a duo. The line-up on ED comprises Steffen Kahles, Michael Drummer, Michel Collet, Andreas Miranda and Timm Brockmann, all more or less based in Berlin.

Drummer is the only constant through all four phases. Keyboarder Timm Brockmann, who left the group in 2014, returns to the fold. He and Franz Bargmann, who left Camera the year before him, released a Brockmann // Bargmann LP entitled *Licht* on Bureau B in 2017, a celebration of keys, guitars and effects which, at times, emulated the ferocious potential of Camera. By the time Steffen Kahles joined the band, Brockmann had already departed, so the new ensemble adds another twist in bringing together two keyboard players from different Camera phases for the first time. The Brockmann Drummer reunion, meanwhile, completes a circle tracing back to early Camera experiences shared in 2010/11, playing on the streets of Berlin (literally).

Paradoxically, the new, expanded Camera line-up sharpens the focus of the tracks running through *Emotional Detox*. With Drummer not so much joining the dots as hammering them home with a nail gun, the stronger framework allows even greater freedom for the musicians to express and ultimately align their disparate creative interests. Throw a single stone into a pond and concentric circles will ripple outwards into infinity. A swoosh of parallel lines. Boundless symmetry. The soundscape assumes the quality of a cinematic loop, like watching the same film over and over, yet discovering new things each time it plays. As a mythological Mancunian once said before the fall: it’s not repetition, it’s discipline.

Customarily associated with the likes of NEU! and La Düsseldorf perhaps it is time to allow Camera to break free of the krautrock tradition and accept that they are very much doing their own thing now. The “Krautrock Guerrilla” tag was cute and catchy for a while, but the flanged depths of *Himmelhilf* sound more Bloody Valentinesque, less like echoes of Cluster or Harmonia.

The motorik origins of the band documented on their debut album *Radiate!* (2012) and the nods to history and William Burroughs on the sophomore *Remember I Was Carbon Dioxide* (2014) gave way to Commodore 64 playfulness on *Phantom of Liberty* (2016). A spirit of experimentation still abounds on the new LP, but there’s also evidence that the group have taken a confident step towards something more “pop” – without tearing up the tangled roots beneath the surface of Camera’s studio floor. The reference points are there, but *Emotional Detox* is not dependent on them.

We live in an age when everything happens at the same time – all of your music in one place, instantaneous streams on mobile devices, encyclopaedic references checked in seconds. The temptation to see connections everywhere can be overwhelming, the speed at which information travels slows us down. *Emotional Detox* encourages us to disregard these multiple distractions. That’s when detoxification kicks in.

Harry Calvino

## Discography

### **Radiate!**

(2012, BB116)



### **Système Solaire EP**

(2013, BB139)



### **Remember I Was Carbon Dioxide**

(2014, BB176)



### **Phantom Of Liberty**

(2016, BB235)

