



See Blue Audio – Press Release

'Cartography of Sleep'
Droning Cats with NRV
See Blue Audio SBA #060

- 1. When Two Longitudes Overlap**
- 2. Slumbering on a Swing**
- 3. Dreams with Claws**
- 4. Catastrophic**
- 5. Dorian Tapestry**

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See Blue Audio: ambient / electronic / beatless / cinematic / downtempo / eclectic / introspective... Shade rather than light...

After a short hiatus, See Blue Audio returns with a collaboration between new artists to the label, Droning Cats, and one of our most established names, NRV. In the chaotic and fraught world in which we find ourselves, this partnership has yielded a wonderful musical pause for reflection in 'Cartography of Sleep'. As the title reveals, the sixtieth release on See Blue Audio is a sonic journey through the mysterious realm of sleep. This is an invitation to drift, while still keeping your bearings, as you travel across the blurred borders between waking and dreaming.

Droning Cats are the Brussels-based duo of Christophe Calis (guitar, baritone guitar, electronics) and Jan Delannoy (modular synths), who first met as part of a trip hop band before morphing into solo ambient artists. They came together to create Droning Cats with the emphasis on creating unpredictable and spontaneous music, rather like the curious nature of cats. Their free-flowing approach to creating music is perfectly complemented by the precision and emotional delicacy of NRV, the drone/ambient project from Japanese electronic musician, producer and radio host Nerve, best known as part of the electro-pop band antennasia. NRV has already contributed two exquisite releases to See Blue Audio in 'Blue Roofs' and 'Seasons Beyond the Ashes'.

'Cartography of Sleep' is the debut release from Droning Cats with NRV and was produced entirely by long-distance file exchanges. Across its five predominantly

beatless tracks, the improvisational, genre-defying soundscapes of Droning Cats elegantly merge with NRV's finely tuned sense of spacious atmospheres. Drawing on their shared love of sonic exploration, the music charts a course through dreamlike states where languid, luminous passages meet darker, ominous undercurrents, like shifting weather in a strange, imagined land. The combination of shimmering guitar textures, slow-moving drones, gentle rhythmic pulses and textural detail invites the listener to join them in a richly immersive experience where geography is fluid and time dissolves.

As 'Cartography of Sleep' unfolds, it maps out an oneiric terrain where beauty drifts into unease and stillness hides quiet cataclysms. The eloquent interplay between guitar harmonics and subtle electronica gives the music a flavour of the natural world in all its myriad forms. Each track is a stopping point on an uncharted map of dreams, from the vast expanse of the opening 'When Two Longitudes Overlap' to the shadowy elegance of 'Dreams with Claws'.

This collection has a special quality that lent itself to being represented in other artistic forms; the realm of sleep and dreams is, after all, also one of images, colours, words and sensations as well as sound. Accompanying the music is a colour booklet featuring five pieces of text – four poems, one flash fiction – written by See Blue Audio founder Matthew Duffield during the time of the global COVID-19 pandemic. This was a time of isolation which, looking back, had some of the qualities of a hallucination, and solace in this discomfiting period was found in writing these texts. Music is also a theme running throughout. The release of 'Cartography of Sleep' felt like the right moment to bring these pieces back to life alongside an additional fragment directly inspired by the music itself.

Completing the release are images from French-born Chinese and Brussels-based artist and illustrator Swann Quach. Rejecting drawing software in favour of ink brushstrokes by hand – another reference to the natural world – her abstract but highly symbolic illustrations are evocative depictions of entering the world of sleep, representing a gateway or portal to another world perhaps. Through her concept of "Behind the inner landscapes", Swann invites the observer to dive deep into her inks. Inspired by her dedication to art and Eastern wisdom traditions, she uses painting as a form of contemplation to practice stillness in movement. Every stroke of her brush reflects what cannot be seen but instead felt, capturing the essence of a fragile moment in a fleeting world.

As Christophe Calis reflects, "I've always believed music expands when it encounters other forms of expression. With 'Cartography of Sleep', the dialogue between sound, image, and text created a space where our collaboration with NRV could unfold like a dream that keeps opening new doors. What began as drifting signals between time zones has grown into a map of shared imagination; a reminder that when artists from different disciplines meet, the work becomes larger than any of us alone."

The music, text and images were all created independently of each in different time and space, but they have serendipitously come together. Swann's illustrations adorn

the cover artwork of 'Cartography of Sleep' as well as alongside the text in the booklet, which is presented as a downloadable PDF and only available to purchasers of the full album through Bandcamp.

'Cartography of Sleep' is a sublime listening experience and one that gently nudges us into the shapeshifting universes of sleep, dreaming and waking. Take from it what you will as the music washes over you. It's commonly agreed that we all need more – and deeper – sleep; this could help us along the way.

Mastered by Simon McCorry.