



See Blue Audio – Press Release

'You Cannot Cheat the Muse'

Kuma

See Blue Audio SBA #040

- 1. The Antidote Was Always in the Poison**
- 2. Scribes of the Rabbit God**
- 3. Ecclesiastic Geology**
- 4. Written Are the Stars**
- 5. The Body Is a Good Indicator**
- 6. Of Great Acuity**
- 7. Haunted Blue Ant**
- 8. Headless Cargo**
- 9. The Likeness of Prophetic Being**
- 10. River House**
- 11. Your Eyes as Lodestars**

Release date: 18 November 2022

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

Travellers through the alternative electronic music scene with surely be acquainted with the name Kuma. For the fortieth release on See Blue Audio, the label's exploration of the outer reaches of ambience continues with 'You Cannot Cheat the Muse', an album from Kuma that draws on his myriad musical influences as he celebrates the mystical, the ceremonial and, at times, the transcendental power of the world that surrounds us all. This is a space where the zen and the cosmic collide and harmonise, and where new tools for living are created.

Bristol-born and Vancouver-based, Kuma has been destroying old worlds and building new ones for over two decades, stamping his curatorial fingerprint on the Canadian dance scene as a DJ, promoter, label owner and radio presenter. The long-running and respected weekly Art of Beatz show co-hosted with Motomasa on Vancouver's Co-op Radio is the city's home for electronic music of all shapes, sizes and speeds, everything from gentle ambience to tearin' drum & bass and all points in-between.

Kuma has also established his credentials as a producer and remixer, and his most recent releases include albums on labels like Waxing Crescent Records, Fallen Moon Recordings, and Thomas Ragsdale's Frosti and Soundtracking the Void imprints. Now it's the turn of See Blue Audio, and his first release for the label is arguably his fullest statement of intent to date; this is Kuma sounding the only way he knows how.

"Cheat your landlord if you can and must, but do not try to shortchange the Muse. It cannot be done. You can't fake quality any more than you can fake a good meal." It was this quote from William S. Burroughs that led to the creation of 'You Cannot Cheat the Muse'. As a student of the Japanese tea ceremony, Kuma took up the act whilst living in Japan because it made art out of something everyday like the making and serving of tea. Now with this 11-track album, he's created a series of sonic overtures that rise and fall with everything we do.

Recorded at the Little Black Rain Cloud studio in Vancouver, the sound palette on 'You Cannot Cheat the Muse' is forever shifting. A series of improvised recordings based around his own vocal looping system were then chopped up and turned inside out. Tapes, synths, field recordings and the human voice are all intertwined into a series of rolling waves buffeted by orchestral overtones. Beatless soundscapes are underpinned by dub-infused pulses, and the influences of early alternative electronica can be heard trickling through. The curious and the eerie merge with the physical, the spiritual and the sometimes supernatural with the end result an ever-morphing array of musical structures designed for all things and all times.

It's impossible to single out individual tracks on 'You Cannot Cheat the Muse'; instead, this album demands to be listened to as a whole. It's a collection of music for making magic out of the mundane and making ritual out of anything you please. Put it on in the background and let the detail seep in ever so gently, or turn up the volume and transcend time. Whatever works for you.

'You Cannot Cheat the Muse' is also available in a limited edition cassette version.