

CONRAD SCHNITZLER

(Gelb)



CD / vinyl (180g) / download
Release date: November 14, 2014

Label: Bureau B

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Distributor: Indigo

CD EAN: 4047179933926

Order no.: CD 99339-2

LP EAN: 4047179933919

Order no.: LP 99339-1

Tracklisting:

(15 untitled tracks from 1973/74 between 2:17 and 12:36 minutes, including three bonus tracks)

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Key info:

- Conrad Schnitzler (1937–2011), composer and concept artist, is one of the most important representatives of Germany's electronic music avant-garde. A student of Joseph Beuys, he founded Berlin's legendary Zodiak Free Arts Lab, a subculture club, in 1967/68, was a member of Tangerine Dream (together with Klaus Schulze and Edgar Froese) and Kluster (with Dieter Moebius and Hans-Joachim Roedelius) and also released countless solo albums.
- The yellow album appeared in 1981, yet it contained recordings from the year 1974, originally released in a limited run on cassette ("The Black Cassette")
- Digipak reissue with liner notes by Asmus Tietchens and three bonus tracks

The chronology of Schnitzler's solo releases in the 1970s—and even more so in the 80s—resembles a book with seven seals. Schnitzler regularly issued his music on analogue cassette or LP, often on his own as "private releases", without any help from a label or professional distributor.

The yellow album, for example, was issued on vinyl in 1981 by René Block in Berlin on his art gallery label (Edition Block). Schnitzler had previously released records on various other labels. The music on the yellow album had, in fact, already been on the market as "The Black Cassette" in 1974, although the production run was probably limited.

The yellow album is subtitled "12 pieces from the year 1974", pointing to Schnitzler's novel approach. Whereas his prior works always lasted for the whole side of an LP or tape, the tracks here are shorter. Also new: Schnitzler goes beyond automatic sonic processes on a number of tracks, using his keyboards to integrate something approaching melodic improvisations "played by hand" into his musical cosmos. Schnitzler's otherwise crystalline, inorganic world of art is thus enriched by an almost human, organic element. An amiable breeze wafts through the music of the yellow album, thankfully miles away from the sentimental platitudes which run through off-the-shelf ambient music of the 1980s.

The yellow album is not only amiable from start to finish, it also documents an important stage in Schnitzler's musical development. Belatedly released on LP (1981) and lacking in discographical detail, this aspect is easily overlooked. On careful listening, as Schnitzler connoisseurs will also realize instantly, this album reveals itself to be an important milestone, illuminating a clear path into the future. Schnitzler had begun to free himself from the constraints of orthodox conceptual art, advancing into the wide open spaces of uncharted musical territory.

Asmus Tietchens