



Arms and Sleepers

Matador

Digipack CD/Digital

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File Under:

Electronic/Ambient, Indie

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Label

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Artist

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Tracks:

1. Orly
2. Matador
3. The Architekt
4. Twentynine Palms
5. Helvetica
6. The International
7. Simone
8. Kino
9. Words Are For Sleeping
10. The Paramour
11. L-Orrizont (bonus track)

Arms and Sleepers are a duo comprised of Max Lewis (Boston, MA) and Mirza Ramic (Portland, ME). Formed in 2006, they have produced multiple albums, EPs and hand-made releases, most notably the *Bliss Was It In That Dawn To Be Alive* EP (Fake Chapter, 2006) and the well-received *Black Paris 86* (Expect Candy, 2008). Following an intense touring schedule in 2008 and 2009 that included appearances in the UK, Europe, and North America and saw the band opening for the likes of Asobi Seksu, The Books, Her Space Holiday, Cass McCombs, Lymbyc Systym, This Will Destroy You and Caspian, Max and Mirza took a break to focus on a new proper full-length in the summer of 2009. The result is *Matador*, featuring contributions from numerous musicians, including Tom Brosseau (Fat Cat Records), Shelley Short (Hush Records), Ben Shepard and Catherine Worsham (of Uzi & Ari), Philip Jamieson (of Caspian) and Mona Elliott (of Travels, ex-Victory At Sea).

Matador is an album studded with varying themes and textures. The synergy between a haunting sonic mix and delicate, ethereal lyrics yield an ambitious, precise whole. Maintaining consistent intensity and energy, the music and artwork both reflect the moodiness behind the concept of the album, which can be summarized as a reaction to the surroundings and circumstances Max and Mirza found themselves in throughout the past two years. *Matador* also finds the duo expanding on their sound, reaching for a new and fresh direction. Vocals are more prominent throughout the album than with previous releases, and the band ventures into new soundscapes, incorporating an expansive array of instruments. The result is a cinematic and hypnagogic mix of rusts, antique grays and olive greens which evoke an eerie nostalgia - memories of places you've never been and things you've never seen.

This is what the press said about the debut, "Black Paris 86":

"From the first time my ears were graced by its presence, I was hooked, and after a countless number of listens, I find myself still intrigued with each listen. For anyone looking for a refreshing new change of pace, I have little doubt that Arms and Sleepers could be the stimulus you are looking for." – The Silent Ballet, 8/10

"These folks create artsy progressive music that is difficult to describe. But unlike most artists creating music completely within the safe and secure confines of their home studios, the members of this band tour to promote their decidedly uncommercial sounding music (early 2008 finds them touring Europe and Canada in addition to the United States). *Black Paris 86* features twelve tracks that showcase this band's ability to create dreamy instrumental pop layered over shuffle-ish rhythms. Soft, intricate, pensive, and soothing...this is an album with a *ton* of staying power." – Baby Sue, 5/6

