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SAX RUINS

"Blimmguass" CD / LP

Though he's renowned for his roles in **Acid Mother's Temple** and **Zeni Geva** and for leading the bands **Koenjhyakkei** and **Koekyojinn**, **Tatsuya Yoshida** always comes back to **Ruins**. Since 1985, Ruins has been Yoshida's primary musical outlet – always minimalist in instrumentation, but maximalist in compositional complexity. Ruins' first two decades were defined by it's drum / bass line-up, with Yoshida remaining as the band's constant, while **RUINS'** bass duties would change hands four times. The last, Sasashi Hisaki, departed in 2004.

Since then, Ruins has evolved into a one-man show, with Yoshida doing what at first seemed impossible, playing it all himself - as documented on SKiN GRAFT's 100th release "RUINS Alone".

Beginning in 2006, Yoshida would occasionally fill the vacant second slot not with a bassist, but with alto saxophonist Ono Ryoko. Ono has become one of Japan's most in demand studio musicians, performing jazz, rock, funk, rhythm & blues and hip hop, as well as leading her own band, "Ryorchestra." Like Yoshida, she has created her a musical language all her own, using a "non-breath" circulation technique and multi-phonics to pursue endless, rich and complex sounds in a progressive and classical tradition.

In 2009, Mike Patton's Ipecac label issued Sax Ruins debut recording "Yawiquo", which found Tatsuya and Ono reinterpreting many of Ruins classics with brass in place of bass.

Their new album "Blimmguass" is highlighted by an all-new composition commissioned by New York's brass band Asphalt Orchestra which premiered at the Lincoln Center in April of 2012. Where the Sax Ruins' first outing focused on short pieces, "Blimmguass" expands it's reach to lengthier, meticulously orchestrated compositions, including **RUINS** classics like "Vrresto" and "Bighead", as well as improvised pieces which reflect the Sax Ruins Live experience.

Sax Ruins transforms Yoshida's compositions from heavy, nimble prog to dense, hyper-kinetic big band jazz, not entirely unlike Sonny Rollins sitting in with Magma and Carl Stalling on the Warner Bros. lot or Borbetomagus calculating a perfectly timed collision with Naked City.

PRESS QUOTES

"How do you describe Sax Ruins? Late-60s chase-scene music run through a blender? The soundtrack to an Hieronymus Bosch painting? Elevator music in a David Lynch dream sequence? A Jazz Holiday, if Benny Goodman had been raised on No Wave? Japanese avant-garde composer Tatsuya Yoshida packs more signature changes into a two-minute song than most artists can fit on an entire record. In saxophonist Ono Ryoko he's found a performer capable of matching him turn-for-maniacal-turn, complementing his rapid-fire percussion with a chorus of screeches, wails and melodies from a variety of brass instruments. This is a mind-bogglingly complex work of pure musicianship, that is for all its impenetrability, surprisingly fun." - Tiny Mix Tapes

o "What's most immediately apparent is how naturally the faithful transposition of these tunes from bass to sax changes them from heavy prog into mutated big-band jazz. These songs seem instantly at home in a jazz context, as if Yoshida was secretly channelling Mingus all along. Within this aesthetic, their wild transitions, melodic oddities and restless nature seem more natural, less coldly calculated to disorient – even if that is their ultimate effect. But if this is a jazz band, it's one from your most feverish dreams. This is gobsmacking stuff." - The Quietus

o "Ryoko's sax is rich with echoes of free-jazz masters Ornette Coleman and John Zorn — lots of intensely passionate links borne of bebop, highly focused high-register wails, and artfully-placed squeals and shrieks. Meanwhile, the harmonious, darting unison passages (massed, overdubbed saxophones) evoke Frank Zappa's jazziest instrumental works (think Hot Rats and The Grand Wazoo). Tightly arranged, droll-sounding horns borne upon furious, rapid-fire cadences that recall the Minutemen at their peak - but for the unconventionally minded, it's exhilarating. Clever and irreverent, sidestepping the stuffy, this-is-serious-stuff mindset that plagues some avant-garde music." - East Bay Express

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SAX RUINS

BLIMMGUASS

TRACK LISTING

- 1) Vrresto
- 2) Refusal Fossil
- 3) Quoperm
- 4) Blimmguass
- 5) Lariko Shodel
- 6) Warrido
- 7) Del Fanci Kant
- 8) Bighead
- 9) Zwimbarrac Khafzavrapp

IMPROVISATION EP (CD BONUS TRACKS):

- 10) improvisation 1
- 11) improvisation 2
- 12) Improvisation 3
- 13) improvisation 4

SAX RUINS:

Tatsuya Yoshida: drums, percussion
Ryoko Ono: alto, baritone & soprano sax, flute

Recorded in Koenji & Nagoya
between December 2012 and August 2013

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