

<p>artist: RADIAN & HOWE GELB title: Radian verses Howe Gelb</p> <p>catalog-nr.: RR001 label: Radian Releases format: CD / LP EAN CD: 9120036681651 EAN LP: 9120036681668 release: november 2014</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RADIAN & HOWE GELB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Radian verses Howe Gelb</p>
--	--

Austrian avantgarde-electronics trio RADIAN (three albums on Thrill Jockey, one on Meg) team up with GIANT SAND's Desert Country Songwriter HOWE GELB.

<p>Radian Releases: A new label founded by Radian in 2014 in order to release unique Radian projects and limited edition specialities. In cooperation with Trost Records.</p> <p>Howe Gelb: piano, guitar, voice</p> <p>Martin Brandlmayr: drums, vibraphone, electronics, synths, editing and arrangement</p> <p>Martin Siewert: guitars, lap-, and pedalsteel, electronics, synths, processings</p> <p>John Norman: bass</p>

Tracklisting

- 01 – Saturated
- 02 – Saturated Beyond
- 03 – I'm Going In
- 04 – From Birth To Mortician
- 05 – ... And Back
- 06 – The Constant Pitch And Sway
- 07 – Return To Picacho Peak
- 08 – Pitch And Sway Again
- 09 – Moon River

	<p>HYPERLINK "http://www.radian.at" www.radian.at HYPERLINK "http:// www.radianreleases.at" www.radianreleases.at HYPERLINK "http://www.howegelb.com" www.howegelb.com HYPERLINK "http:// www.trost.at/"www.trost.at</p>
--	---

The seemingly curious collaboration. A wrangling and grappling, a confrontation, a quarrel. A checking-out, a weighing of compromises.

The Viennese trio Radian has recorded an album with songwriter Howe Gelb from Tuscon, Arizona. Here the situation is different: "Radian Verses Howe Gelb" is primarily a Radian release. "This is a Radian album. I'm only living in it" Howe Gelb went on record, modestly. In four sessions that were rather freely dispersed over time, Howe Gelb, usually devoting himself to a cosmopolitan rethinking of Americana and Desert Country in his day job, fed acoustic contributions into the microphone for Radian: piano, guitar, above all: voice. Sometimes as a reaction to material prepared by Radian, sometimes pulled liberally and unexpectedly from his own vast and tangled pool of ideas.

The tones of Howe Gelb provided further material for Radian: They were dissected, dissolved, reoriented, mutated and made to fit into their own world. Radian Verses Howe Gelb is the first Radian release with guitarist Martin Siewert, who joined the band in 2011 and here is also responsible for processing and sound treatment. As usual, drummer Martin Brandlmayr was in charge of the selection and arrangement of sounds, and John Norman of the bass. As always with Radian, this record resembles a particularly carefully and cautiously assembled collage: Sounds, tones, noises – the tracks are busy. They are teeming, quavering, vibrating. As before, the kinds of things that Brandlmayr, Norman and Siewert scrape and tease out of their machines and instruments make up an exuberant buffet of ideas and strangeness. 42 minutes of sound of unidentified origin. The way the sounds are arranged here however creates an aura of fragility, a lean design. No showing off, no flooding, no bells and whistles. The tones appear to be artfully suspended in space, you can feel the air flowing between them.

Which means that Radian's manipulations and reshapings didn't go as far as fixing the musician Howe Gelb beyond repair or destroying him in the process. That cannot be the point. So you can hear that this bent man, croaking and whining to us here, that's Howe Gelb. And so sections of songs, melodies, narratives remain intact. Songwriting in the process of disintegration, and in penetration, entanglement and fusion with highly focused free music.

The claim that's often made and often void – here it is true: The categories crumble away. Whether jazz, intricate tinker-electronics, dub, growling, hissing, bubbling, rock as well – a lot of things wondrously permeate this music, one that is indeed rather post-everything. A music that is hard to get a grasp on and yet does, here and there, again and again, summon the pleasant impulse we call "groove". Let's meet at the outermost fringes.

Philipp L'Heritier

Full credits:

Howe Gelb: voice, guitars, piano

Martin Brandlmayr: drums, vibraphone, electronics, synths, editing and arrangement

Martin Siewert: guitars, lap-, and pedalsteel, electronics, synths, processings

John Norman: bass

Music by Radian and Howe Gelb

Lyrics by Howe Gelb

Except "Moon River" by Henry Mancini and Johnny Mercer

Recorded at

-Amann Studios by Christoph Amann

-Garrison 7 by Martin Siewert

-Hugo Sound by Martin Brandlmayr

Edited and Arranged by Martin Brandlmayr

Mixed by Martin Brandlmayr and Martin Siewert

Mastered by Martin Siewert

The Radian Choir: Backing vocals on "Moon River"

John Norman: Subbass voice on "Return to Picacho Peak"

Matilda Brandlmayr: Lead Vocals on "...And Back"

Cover art by Martin Brandlmayr

Photos in the artwork: Klaus Vyhnalek

Photos of the artwork: Alexi Pelekanos

Handwriting: John Norman