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ROLDÁN *El Cantar*

Before or after reaching a purpose, a definitive form, or a stable state of mind - from such a transitional condition ROLDÁN composed his debut album for AArecords. It is hard to come back home from the foray listening to the tracks, all peanuts are forgotten, and so the time goes by in the wine house. Dangled in transitional moments: the vacations in "Orgullosa", the coup d'etat, or the change of seasons in "El Pirata", ROLDÁN's characters spend their time jesting, awaiting visitors, throwing plates onto the roof, slapping-on a tune to his sister's birthday (yet another transition). Most of the scenes seem to take place in a rural environment, so there is room to enjoy local gossip in "La Descansada".

The unpredictable guitar arpeggios and ROLDÁN's cranky phrasing are accompanied, here and there, by feminine buzzing, Moogs, trotting baselines, unhinged drum rolls, screaming, timplés (a fretted instrument from the Canary Islands), and mandolins. The songs are presented without hierarchy, without the stiffness of the definitive. There is room for Brazilian and Andean echoes (in the hit "Calcetas", or in "Polla"), as well as for references to the most blunt (smog) songs, i.e. "Dispara", or for parish fair dancing from dusk 'til dawn in "Bonita". Rafael Martínez del Pozo's production provides an astonishing spontaneity to the sound. The instrumentation, sometimes very austere, leaves room for the listener to make oneself comfortable and choose a point of view freely.

The presence of ROLDÁN's deep and intimate voice is continuous, yet the album oozes a collective atmosphere. Out of the field, in the countryside, the outlines get un-drawn. *El Cantar* tells us about incidents that end up being exemplary episodes, like folk narratives; private and public.

Furthermore a certain air of inquietude pervades this record: it's as if we suspect that this transitional condition might never resolve, would never again take up a definitive focus. As if evoking any certain sense, past or future, would be already "in vain" ("En Balde"). ROLDÁN's *El Cantar* is a celebration of ease loaded with a sense of humour, but at the same time denoting some nostalgia. It's this duality which makes it really genuine; where its odd charm resides.

Javier Aquilué

The cover of this record is an handmade special art edition. We used covers of old records and modified them with silkscreen printing. The silkscreened covers create polyphonic images altering found motifs with the application of graphic elements. *El Cantar* is printed in an edition of 300 unique covers.

ROLDÁN: *El Cantar*
 LP 12" Vinyl
 AA#17

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Produced by:
 Rafael Martínez del Pozo

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