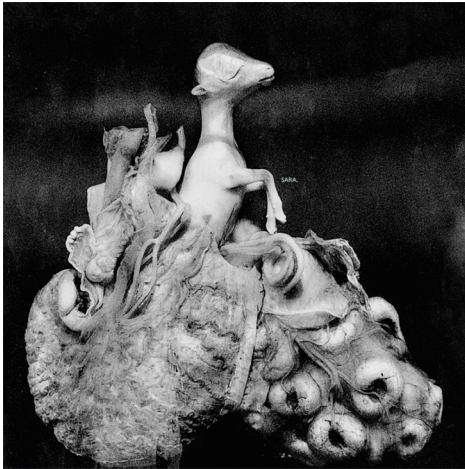


*** New album with Johan Heltne



Artist: Johan Heltne

Title: Sara,

Label: Raffaella

Release: Wednesday October 27th

Format: LP (RALP01), digitally (Spotify, Itunes)

Barcode: 7320470136560

Sites: johanheltne.se,

myspace.com/johanheltne

Sara, was written during a strange year. One of my best friends contracted cancer and was dead six months later. Another friend made a serious attempt to take his own life. Another friend was raped at an afterparty. At the same time, several conflicts raged around me, where I was more or less involved. They were concerned with gender roles, dissent and inability to understand others, something that resulted in polite non-relationships. During this time I also had unusually many and powerful epileptic seizures at night. I remember it as though I never was able to get a good night's sleep. The lyrics of *Sara*, are characterized by this.

We gathered in the studio in Gothenburg, me and four friends. (Being friends and recording music is, to me, a celebration of the fact that the hours of togetherness in the studio are unusually valuable hours of friendship.) I had ideas about the music to be rythmical, r&b-winking, with dry, static drums and lots of electric bass – as a rule there are two basses at most tracks. I also wanted the soundscape to be sparse, so that every single sound would be possible to identify. I like music that leaves room for me as a listener to play along, in a matter of speaking. A key was not using guitars. I wanted the music to float.

We recorded one song a day, one instrument at a time – it was gut feeling, improvisation, first takes, Polish parliament, dubious influences, theoretical defence speeches, my vetoes. Since the others almost exclusively play jazz and art music, we sort of played pop. Personally, I think that the result turned out beautiful.

* *Sara*, is published by the recording company *Raffaella* and is the second album in a trilogy of friendship. The first, *Scientific Proof that Jesus is Alive*, was published by *Raffaella* in 2008.

* *Sara*, is distributed as LP through johanheltne.se and is available digitally on, for instance, Spotify and Itunes.

* For more information, press pictures etc: johanheltne.se, myspace.com/johanheltne

Phone: + 46 (0) 07 999 89 84

E-mail: johan@raffaella.se