

CARTA

an index of birds

"...like many fine bands before it -- Joy Division, Low, Mogwai among others -- Carta seeks to use rock band instrumentation to emphasize reflective mood rather than simply traditional performance. Unlike many other predominantly instrumental rock acts of recent years, though, Carta are blessedly free of the go-nowhere dullardry that ended up giving post-rock a bad name -- the group's songs are all miniature portraits that benefit from careful variation within a generally propulsive structure."

~ All Music Guide

Carta blends all of the elements we at Silber loved about indie bands from the 1990s like Low, Tindersticks, Hood, & Piano Magic. Slowcore. Post rock. Shoegaze. They're all & none of these things. They're Carta.

Carta formed in 2002 as a studio project having a revolving membership around Kyle Monday & Jason Perez. In 2005 they recorded *The Glass Bottom Boat* with the band drifting into hiatus during a two-year search for a label (eventually released by Resonant in 2007). By that time, the band had undergone a complete transformation, with all former members gone except for Kyle Monday & Ray Welter they regrouped with Oakland drummer Raj Ojha (who had just left electro-post-rock band Run Return) & bassist/guitarist Sacha Galvagna (Charles Atlas). The new version of Carta began to write entirely new material rather than trying to re-work the old songs.

Originally planning two separate albums (one song-focused & another made up of more ambient experimental tracks), *An Index of Birds* emerged as a cohesive body of work from the disparate sessions recorded at different times & studios. Cellist Alex Kort (ex-Subtle) returned to work on several of the songs & Lorealle Bishop took up the mantle as the band's new female vocalist. Former Continental drummer & Christopher Willits-collaborator Gabriel Coan mixed several tracks on the album, & eventually became Carta's dedicated drummer.

Recorded & mixed by Carta, Sean Coleman, & Eli Crews (Deerhoof, Why?, Citay) & following the direction to 'make things sound like they have been recovered from a sunken ship', the result is an album that recalls the debut in feel but has both a more pastoral & more sinister tone. Placing more importance on vocals this time out, "An Index Of Birds" was a dedicated attempt to move beyond the stereotyped post-rock idioms & investigate textures & composition. Tiny electronic landscapes, soundtrack bombast, krautrock-inspired psychedelia, & brooding melodrama all find a home on an album you might hear on an ambulance ride that could end in salvation be it life or death.

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