

# Northern Valentine

## Fin de Siècle



A lot of words can be used to describe Northern Valentine – sparse, minimalist, ambient, soothing, brooding – & they are all accurate to some degree. Since 1998 Northern Valentine has been perfecting their version of drone music – based on improvisation & the emotions of the performers reacting to their physical environment & to each other at that moment, feeding off of & amplifying each other's energies. Over the past few years the line-up has solidified around Robert Brown (guitars), Amy Brown (keyboards, violin), Jeffrey Bumiller (guitars), & Matthew Primak (keyboards).

*Fin de Siècle* was recorded live with minimal editing. In fact it was recorded with a single binaural microphone instead of a slew of recording equipment, resulting in an incredibly organic & natural sound. The tracks “Sink/Rise” & “The White Mountains” were recorded almost fifteen years ago & re-discovered while going through over 200 hours of recordings to select the best bits for this release. “Black Rose” was taken from a 2011 live performance at Bookspace in Philadelphia. “Fin de siècle” was recorded at the Electro-Music Festival in 2010 at the Greenkill Retreat Center in Huguenot, NY. The rest of the album was recorded over the past two years in the living room that doubles as Northern Valentine's practice space. Ben Fleury-Steiner served as mastering engineer for the project & also makes an appearance on this recording, playing waterphone on the track “Rue d'Auseil”.

Northern Valentine makes music to be listened to in two seemingly dichotomic ways. At the same time their music can be played quietly as a soothing background of ambience or when listened to at louder volumes it becomes an overwhelming wave of atmosphere pulling you into their world of hope & melancholia...the soundtrack of the circle of life & death, anger & peace, love & loneliness.



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