**OSOMO, *Side Trips*:**

**Simon Baumann's artistic encounter with our hectic Zeitgeist**

OSOMO’s music creates spaces for pause, retreat and contemplation away from the outside world and its frantic pace. Music that is geared towards the inner world. It is an invitation to let go – and to travel – in our frenetic times. It is music that carries you away, a soundscape in which listeners can let themselves go with their own thoughts, feelings and physical sensations, move around, and rest. A journey that takes everyone to a different place.

OSOMO s live-sets (known as “horizontal concerts”) build a musical and physical space in which to lie down, dream and sleep; from letting go to the most focused, deepest listening. Osomo makes music that envelops you and carries you away. To be touched by music, whether in the body or in the mind, is a mysterious and stimulating – and above all unfathomable – experience. “I’ve always been looking for that moment when music can change our state of mind,” says Simon Baumann.

OSOMO is his solo project. Baumann is Stephan Eicher’s drummer, and has collaborated with Colin Vallon, Mario Batkovic, Don Li, and others. He is now releasing his first album, *Side Trips*, on Two Gentlemen.

In *Side Trips*, Baumann’s aesthetic programme is expressed in a continuous musical arc, articulated in thirteen movements. OSOMO takes the frenetic spirit of our time and translates it into acoustic pulses – “My instrument is rhythm,” he adds. From one sequence to the next, waves of sound rearrange themselves. Textures are generally electronic, with occasional emergers of trombone, vibraphone, old drums, and vocal samples.

These waves follow several dynamics: they progress, they flow and ebb, they interpenetrate. When they break, they take on more or less rapid, but always powerful impulses. Melodic sequences alternate with phases of rest. We navigate from perfectly contemplative moments to propulsive phases. Rhythms and syncopations interact with each other in refined balance. All this turns, meanders, orbits around the mind and the senses. And indeed, even if it ventures into stratospheric heights, it is by its undulatory identity that Baumann’s music distinguishes itself from the stasis of ambient: *Side Trips* is a work in perpetual motion.

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OSOMO is the solo project of Swiss musician Simon Baumann (1976), drummer, music producer, performer, and creative mind. He has toured for more than ten years with Stephan Eicher and worked with many other artists in France, Germany, and Switzerland: Mario Batkovic, Sirens of Lesbos, Ian Fisher, Don Li …

He has performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival, the Olympia concert hall in Paris, and hundreds of other venues in Europe, sharing the stage with Sophie Hunger, Evelinn Trouble, Louis Bertignac, Arthur Teboul (Feu! Chatterton), Bonaparte, Jeans 4 Jesus, Fritz Kalkbrenner and others.

Baumann was a member of the Berlin electro trio One:Shot:Orchestra and the Swiss electronic duo Mercury. As a producer of electronic music, he has worked for Gomma Records/Toy Tonics, among others.

In the US, he remixed Marvin Gaye’s *Sunny* for both the television series *Ray Donovan* (CBS Hollywood) and Universal Music Los Angeles.

In 2016, Baumann founded Die Polstergruppe, an experimental music collective, together with Eicher and Lericolais, with whom he gave his first “horizontal concert” at the Bee Flat club (Bern). He has worked with John Armleder, Marco Repetto, Colin Vallon, and Dan Reeder.

Baumann currently lives in Switzerland.