

## Rhys Chatham

### *Rêve Parisien*

Primary LP

Originally conceived to soundtrack a Jacob Kassay exhibition at the Art: Concept Gallery in Paris, *Rêve Parisien* sees Rhys Chatham expand upon the trumpet experiments he first began in the 1990s. Here he successfully transfers many of the techniques that characterised his electric guitar work of the last three

decades: epic proportions, immersive use of effects, repetitious themes undermined by turbulence. He processes the instrument in real time through a digital loop station, but far from being restricted to the often leaden formula produced from such devices, all the pieces have distinct, interactive and imaginative evolutions.

"Impromptu 1 For Solo Treated Trumpet" starts with an Om drone which swells with stealthy, horizontal harmonies before morphing into a hive of squawks around the cracked-note registers. Imagine Liz Harris interpreting Terry Riley's *A Rainbow In Curved Air* and you won't be too wide of the mark. "Impromptu 3 For Solo Treated Trumpet" has the carhorn urgency of Donald Ayler's head-on "Holy Ghost". The piece accrues density as the loop station multiplies the blurts into pointillistic tumult, before it's dissected by an elephantine roar that consigns all else to a blur.

While the A side is made up of live solo performances from Kassay's opening, the second side is comprised of one long track designed to be played continuously in the exhibition space. "Une Chanson Si Vieille For Numerous Trumpets In B Flat" is an endlessly expanding horizon line of sustained trumpet chords. Occasionally a minor key fanfare will emerge from the glut then dissolve into bottomless bliss again. It's as numinous and desolate as any La Monte Young, Taj Mahal Travellers or Neil Campbell jam.

Alex Neilson