DOUBLE ALBUM RELEASE

On Tuesday February 22, 2022, guitarist/composer Chiel Zwinkels will release two new albums, entitled *Monochrome* and *Glass Figures*.

Each album features 8 instrumental tracks of original guitar music. *Monochrome* is an eclectic album featuring electric guitar and electronics. *Glass Figures* is a collection of acoustic guitar solo pieces. Both albums were recorded as solo live performances, without edits or overdubs, and each in its own way is an exploration of the history and future of the guitar and the (im)possibilities of 21st century guitar music.

Both albums are coming to Bandcamp on the 22nd of February 2022 and to other platforms shortly thereafter.

Included below are private links to both albums as well as some more detailed information. High resolution images are available on https://chielzwinkels.net/press-page/.

Keywords: Electric guitar, analog synth, lo-fi electronics, cassette tape, instrumental music

Pre-release private link:
Monochrome soundcloud (private)

Public link (active from 2022/02/22):
https://chielzwinkels.bandcamp.com/album/monochrome

Keywords: Acoustic guitar, solo guitar, instrumental music

Pre-release private link:
Glass Figures soundcloud (private)

Public link (active from 2022/02/22):
https://chielzwinkels.bandcamp.com/album/glass-figures

ABOUT ME

Chiel is a guitarist/composer based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. His solo work straddles the lines between composition and improvisation and between conventional instruments and electronic sound generation. He likes to enter into conversation with reluctant robotic orchestras built from vintage electronics and obsolete computers, in an attempt to capture the discordant dialogue between man and machine in unsuspected sonic worlds. He also likes to play acoustic guitar a lot.

Some of my musical influences are (in no particular order):

Jim Hall, Julee Cruise, Cabaret Voltaire, John Fahey, Delia Derbyshire, Latin Playboys, Mulatu Astatke, Calexico, Boards of Canada, Prince, George Harrison, Nina Simone, Orchestra Baobab, Marc Ribot, Brian Eno, David Byrne, Edvard Grieg, B.B. King, Angelo Badalamenti, Jimi Hendrix, Carlos Santana, David Gilmour, Thelonious Monk, Wu-Tang Clan, Robert Henke, Hamza El Din, Aretha Franklin, Leonard Cohen, Manu Chao, Django Reinhardt, Echo & the Bunnymen, Emahoy Tsegué-Maryam Guèbrou, Andres Segovia, Frantz Casseus, Etta James, Blixa Bargeld, Erik Satie, Lightnin' Hopkins, Grant Green

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BANDCAMP:
https://chielzwinkels.bandcamp.com/

SOUNDCLOUD:
https://soundcloud.com/musings

FACEBOOK:
https://www.facebook.com/chielzwinkels

INSTAGRAM:
https://www.instagram.com/chielzwinkels/

SPOTIFY:
https://open.spotify.com/artist/2fKLXsypBjx2TWJam0juVf?si=PK6AEXbFT0ymG4QS_bRi2A

YOUTUBE:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1IlIWbDUOfJZWJQcHkMo5g

ABOUT THE ALBUM 'MONOCHROME'

Monochrome is a composition for guitar and synthesizer in eight parts. Each piece was performed in real time and recorded straight to cassette tape, without edits or overdubs. An unapologetic bout of 1980s-infused Retro-futurism, *Monochrome* is a very personal attempt at coming to terms with the technological and cultural phase shift that took place while I was growing up. It squeezes digital rhythms into an analog timeflow while infusing its electronic circuitry with some crude but contemporary artificial intelligence.

Monochrome is a man-vs-machine themed record. I have given the machine a lot of leeway here, in hopes of getting it to show some creativity in return. The machine in question was cobbled together from an old Gretsch Clipper, a couple of synthesizers and a few audio effects, connected via an analog mixing desk to a vintage cassette deck, which recorded the stereo mix directly to tape. In programming the sounds and patterns, I made extensive use of probability functions, thus introducing additional degrees of unpredictability. After these preparations, the process of recording the actual pieces was not unlike performing a duet with a rather temperamental robot.

Monochromes are images consisting of various shades of a single colour, meaning they only produce (or reflect, depending on your medium of choice) light of a single frequency. In music, such a single constant frequency is called a 'note'. Each piece of *Monochrome* is built around one musical note and utilises a single hexatonic scale for its melodic development. The root notes of the eight pieces move across the tonal centers of the equal tempered chromatic scale in a kind of knight move's variaton on the circle of fifths, so forming a series of musical monochromes. To further justify the album's title, I might also add that I created the seeds for each piece on a synthesizer called 'Monologue', and that everything was recorded to Chrome tapes.

Keywords:
Electric guitar, analog synth, lo-fi electronics, cassette tape, instrumental music

Pre-release private link:
Monochrome soundcloud (private)

Public link (active from 2022/02/22):
https://chielzwinkels.bandcamp.com/album/monochrome

ABOUT THE ALBUM 'GLASS FIGURES'

Glass Figures is a collection of 8 short compositions for solo acoustic guitar. It came about as a kind of antidote to the previously recorded *Monochrome*. After spending many hours trying to impose my will on uncooperative electronics, I felt I needed a change of pace, so I temporarily discarded all fancy technology in favour of a sparser setting.

The style of playing I used on this album is called plectrum guitar, also known as 'flat-picking', and of all possible guitar techniques this might just be the one that's least suitable for solo performance. Essentially, this technique allows the playing of only one note at a time, which means that any coincidental bass/chord/melody playing requires all kinds of trickery. I've tried my hand at various thumb- and fingerpicking techniques that might make more sense in this context, but plectrum playing turned out to be the only way to get the guitar to sound just right for me. So I decided to embrace it, technical difficulties be damned, which led me on an interesting journey to which this album provides a kind of travel journal.

I wrote these songs over an extended period of time: some are recent, some go back more than a decade. The older pieces were reworked for plectrum style playing and I recorded everything in quick succession at the end of 2021, when I had the opportunity to borrow a most excellent set of microphones (thanks Marc!). All songs were performed without edits or overdubs on my lovely 1939 Gibson Kalamazoo KG-14 acoustic guitar.

Keywords: Acoustic guitar, solo guitar, instrumental music

Pre-release private link:
Glass Figures soundcloud (private)

Public link (active from 2022/02/22):
https://chielzwinkels.bandcamp.com/album/glass-figures