

Laura Misch

Lithic



photo credit: Joya Berrow

JUNE 5 | ONE LITTLE INDEPENDENT

Comprised of field recordings gathered in caves, quarries, rock pools and along coastal edges, London-based saxophonist, producer, singer-songwriter Laura Misch's forthcoming new album *Lithic* layers these experiences with saxophone, voice, electronics and percussion into a living, breathing ecosystem of sound. Struck slate and stone form the record's distinctive rhythms, most notably using the

Musical Stones of Skiddaw for "Scrolls" - a 180-year-old lithophone built from stone in the Lake District. Hydrophones capture the sea's textures which form the basis for "Siren"; described as thumping 'Neolithic rave' amongst the tides of Misch's siren song. Saxophone improvisations were shaped by breath in a studio surrounded by the swirls and gusts of wind on the Greek island of Hydra. *Lithic* shifts between sounds that slowly drift and suspend in the air and those that erupt in stone percussion and looping saxophone, a union of ancient and contemporary sound.

Lithic is a cave borne out of emotions and elemental forces, carved by deep time itself. Sound and existential thought echo through its chasms and ancient history lingers in the stone. It is fractured by age, eroded by weather and awakened by voice, body and breath. It traces sound back to its origins, revealing how music can emerge from beneath the earth and from the dark parts of ourselves.

Misch's acclaimed debut album *Sample of Sky* (2023) suspends high above ground in clouds of sound, followed by its acoustic sister-album *Sample of Earth* (2024) reimagined and regrown amongst the soil. Her forthcoming new album *Lithic* (2026) is set in stone, journeying below the surface and into the dark depths of the psyche in the dawn of a new sonic Stone Age.

Over the last decade Misch's practice has evolved ecologically, exploring the dynamic and intricate relationship between humans, environment, sound and the more-than-human. Her earlier projects *Playground* (2017) and *Lonely City* (2019) were inspired by her surrounding built environments and feelings of disconnection, resulting in urban soundscapes created from the four walls of her bedroom studio. Her later work has evolved to demonstrate a symbiotic relationship with the threads of her environment.

Influenced by the places and the people around her, the album's conceptual foundations are inspired by deep listening practices, eco-

acoustics and geology. Inspired by artists and thinkers such as Barbara Hepworth, Pauline Oliveros, Annea Lockwood, eco-psychotherapist and author of *Weathering Ruth* Allen and David Haskell's writing on the origins and evolution of sound, *Lithic* considers sound as an ancient material itself; something that can evolve and transform over time. It is a deeply feminine record, tracing the rough and soft edges of aging; the weathered lines etched upon

a face, or the cracks seeping into a rockface: "There's a wilderness inside and she's growing every day".

After COVID-19 halted touring, Misch found space to slow down and began exploring her surrounding green spaces and experimenting with eco-acoustics. Inspired by composer James Bulley, she used technology to expand her capacity to hear and to capture sounds that exist beyond the human ear. This led to an eco-acoustic residency at Camp FR

in the pyrenees mountains and a collaboration with composer and technologist Daniel Jones and field recordist Greg White, focusing on designing systems to improvise with the elements. A period of burnout following extensive touring prompted a major shift in how Misch approached music, redefining her relationship to a more sustainable way of making, convening, listening and being. This led to a "slow tour" in collaboration with Philippa Neels (NYX) in five cities across Europe, each followed by a day of workshops dedicated to slowness and sound, influenced by Oliveros' practice of Deep Listening. These gatherings, bringing people together from many disciplines,



album artwork

became a space for shared conversations on burnout, balance, collective listening and the state of the world; all of which also inform Misch's latest work.

Lithic is defined as "of the nature of or relating to stone". You can hear the elements that carved it, changed it, feel the weight of its existence like a stone in your palm or the weight of a pebble in your pocket. It gestures toward the

cracks in worn rock formations and the broken lines on weathered faces. It holds grief and hope, sways between melancholia and euphoria; a paradox of emotions in the midst of ecological crisis. It serves as a reminder of our aliveness and offers music as a communal act, a portal for reflection, to gather and reconnect during a time of fracture. *Lithic* invites you to lean together against its textures, to journey into deep time and to listen so very deeply. ●

Credits

Music Credits Lithic was produced by Laura Misch and Matt Karmil Recorded across various quarries, cliffs and caves of Cornwall, a treehouse at Kudhva, between Tinos in the Cyclades and Old Carpet Factory Studios in Hydra, Unwound Studios in Deptford, in the pebble desert of Dungeness. Mixed, weathered through tape machines at Brewery Studios in Berlin. Engineered by Laura Misch, Matt Karmil, Adam Jaffrey and Vasilis Korres. Mixed by Matt Karmil Assisted by Alf McMorrow Mastered by Erik Breuer

1. BREATHING (01:14)

Laura Misch - Saxophone clouds, field recordings
Tim Gardner - Violin, Katt Newlon - Cello
Produced by Laura Misch + Matt Karmil
Mixed by Matt Karmil
Mastered by Erik Breuer

2. KAIROS (04:33)

Laura Misch - Vocals, Saxophone clouds, bass synth, lithophone, shruti, field recordings from Kudhva Cornwall, Matt Davies live drums, Matt Karmil - electronic drums,
Tim Gardner - Violin
Produced by Laura Misch + Matt Karmil
Mixed by Matt Karmil
Mastered by Erik Breuer

3. ECHOES (03:06)

Laura Misch - Vocals, Saxophone clouds, Saxophone percussion, field recordings
Matt Davies - bombo (Goat skin drum)

Matt Karmil programmed drums
Lyrics by Laura Misch + Ruth Allen
Produced by Laura Misch + Matt Karmil
Mixed by Matt Karmil
Mastered by Erik Breuer

4. SIREN (04:06)

Laura Misch - Vocals, Saxophone clouds, shruti, electronic drums, field recordings
Matt Karmil electronic drums
Marysia Osu : synth
Matt Davies : live drums
Produced by Laura Misch + Matt Karmil
Mixed by Matt Karmil
Mastered by Erik Breuer

5. SCROLLS (03:12)

Laura Misch - Vocals, Saxophone clouds, lithophone, bass synth, electronic drums, field recordings
Matt Davies - live drum
Lyrics by Laura Misch + Ruth Allen
Produced by Laura Misch + Matt Karmil
Mixed by Matt Karmil
Mastered by Erik Breuer

6. SOFTENING (04:11)

Laura Misch - Vocals, Saxophone clouds, lithophone, bass synth, electronic drums, field recordings

Marysia Osu - Piano, Thomas Fournil - Symphonie

Matt Karmil - electronic drums, Matt Davies - live drums Charles Van Kirk - lithic beats

Produced by Laura Misch + Matt Karmil

Mixed by Matt Karmil

Mastered by Erik Breuer

7. CIRCLE (02:27)

Laura Misch - Vocals, Saxophone clouds, bass synth, electronic drums, field recordings

Marysia Osu - synth, Matt Davies - live drums

Lyrics by Laura Misch

Produced by Laura Misch + Matt Karmil

Mixed by Matt Karmil

Mastered by Erik Breuer

8. FO(R)EST (02:23)

Laura Misch - Saxophone clouds, cave reverb, field recordings recordings from Cornwall Marysia Osu - harp

Produced by Laura Misch + Matt Karmil

Mixed by Matt Karmil

Mastered by Erik Breuer

9. JEALOUSEA FEAT. ALFA MIST (03:50)

Writing splits: 50% Laura Misch / 50% Alfa Mist

Laura Misch - Vocals, Saxophone clouds, field recordings sea recordings from Cornwall run through tape Alfa Mist - piano

Lyrics by Laura Misch + Ruth Allen

Produced by Laura Misch + Matt Karmil

Mixed by Matt Karmil

Mastered by Erik Breuer

10. MYTHIC (03:04)

Laura Misch - Saxophone clouds, Aegean winds field recordings

Saxophone Engineered by Vassilis at Old Carpet

Factory, Hydra

Produced by Laura Misch + Matt Karmil

Mixed by Matt Karmil

Mastered by Erik Breuer

11. SHELL (03:34)

Laura Misch - Vocals, Saxophone clouds Katt Newlon - Cello

Produced by Laura Misch + Matt Karmil

Mixed by Matt Karmil

Mastered by Erik Breuer

12. SPIRAL (03:47)

Laura Misch - Vocals, Saxophone clouds, field recordings

Thomas Fournil - Portative Organ

Tim Gardiner - Violin, Katt Newlon - Cello

Charles Van Kirk - lithic beats, Matt Davies - live drums

Lyrics by Laura Misch

Produced by Laura Misch + Matt Karmil

Mixed by Matt Karmil

Mastered by Erik Breuer

ARTWORK CREDITS

Vinyl Design by Shrey Kathuria

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Photos by Joya Berrow

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MUA up by Billie McKenzie

Clothes by Raxada and Chichirara Vintage

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