



Genre: Avant-Rollercoaster-Jazz-n-Roll

Similar Fashion's new album *Portrait of*

Release date: February 16, 2018

Self-released

About:

On their new album *Portrait of*, LA's Similar Fashion has wild, pivoting, and colorful arguments about how to move through Logan Hone's playfully melodic songs. Deerhoof's John Dieterich produced the album, bringing electricity to Lauren Baba's rich viola, clarity to Greg Uhlmann's staccato guitar, and thunder to Jesse Quebbeman-Turley's gargantuan drums.

These four musicians are astonishingly good at playing their instruments, a fact that their music showcases but is never beholden to or burdened by. Folding in

elements from Bill Frisell's Americana, Arthur Russell's plainspoken disco, Tim Berne's contrapuntal puzzles, and Deerhoof's booming punk, Similar Fashion stays restless and exploratory, uncomfortable in its ostensible hometown of "jazz," but unwilling to settle for too long anywhere else.

Portrait of showcase a raucous jumble of glassy experiments at different scales, shifting nimbly from a curious little sea-tumbled shard to a massive downtown obelisk looming overhead. Stated plainly in "Portrait of Arthur Russell," this album is the generative and beautiful collision of "research and dancing."

Similar Fashion's "research" traces back to CalArts, where all four members of the band got their music degrees. Through the vibrant community he found there, Logan met up with recent grads Greg and Lauren, two busy geniuses and composers, and most importantly, fellow researchers. Pushing their shovels into the same educational excavation site along with Mike Lockwood, they dug up and brushed off Logan Hone's *Similar Fashion*, their debut album, which was released on pfMentum and displayed comfortably next to other curious artifacts of art-school jazz.

The band's "research" found its counterpart, "dancing," after Mike left for New York and Jesse joined the band. Premonitions of this transition can be found in Logan and Jesse's previous collaborations. They spent their early undergraduate years workshopping each others' endless musical whims. With help from Utah outsiders and mentors like Christian Asplund and Lara Candland, they cultivated the Avant GaRawge, an idyllic biweekly DIY recital/open mic for improvisers, conceptual poets, and weirdo musicians. They also helped start Deseret Experimental Opera Company, which put on ambitious, movement-focused productions — sometimes on stage, sometimes on bikes — and they turned over multiple iterations of their Talking Heads-inspired funk-workout band Bright Whistles.

Portrait of folds these aspects of the band's history into each other like a shuffled deck of cards — not so much a synthesis as a well-proportioned interspersal. The songs featured here were developed over the course of two 2016 tours, during which Logan began to experiment in new ways with using dance as a meaningful, musical, performative element in a Similar Fashion show. His heartfelt saxophone solos became increasingly full of gesticulation and footwork, and when the band played "My Heart & Lungs," he set his horn down and danced an improvised clown-ish ritual across the stage.

Similar Fashion is a quartet which, through their commitment to performance, humor, and ecstatic musicality, have opened their songs to possibilities that exist beyond the limits of their instruments and their study. Those possibilities, captured in live studio performances, are presented on *Portrait of* with conviction and joy.

"a mostly irreverent romp full of chaotic sounds deftly organized by Hone" — *LA Weekly*

"The band sounds like they are getting ready to be the soundtrack for an animation film festival, or at least a Warner Brothers Saturday morning matinee." — *Jazz Weekly*

Upcoming West Coast Tour, Feb 2018: Details TBA

similarfashionmusic.com

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