
Johanna Burnheart

Bär



Ropeadope BRNHRT 003 (LP)

German auteur raises the bar with second album



Judging from this excellent new opus, which presents musical

portraits of locations she's lived at or visited, places are highly significant for Burnheart, a jazz violinist and occasional vocalist with a penchant for electronic music. Originally from Germany, she has lived for many years in London, where she's a key player in the city's alternative jazz scene. Offering a nonpareil brand of fusion that combines jazz improv with electronica and rock rhythms, *Bär* is a well-produced project defined by Burnheart's soaring violin, Jonny Mansfield's iridescent vibraphone, and Ben Brown's crisp drumming. Cylla Burna, a bubbling, percussive soundscape, is arguably the set's standout track, closely followed by the pastoral lyricism of Botlierskop, inspired by a South African game reserve, which highlights Burnheart's cleanly articulated violin over a fluid, freewheeling groove.

Charles Waring