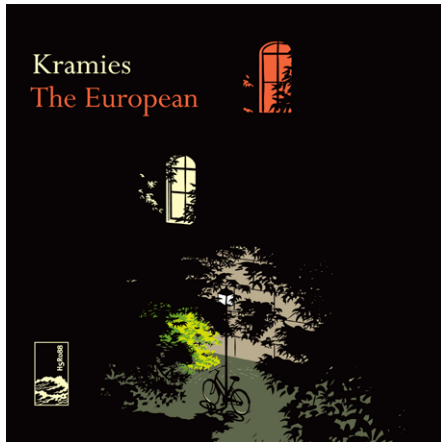




# Kramies – *The European*



**Denver, Colorado; Perth, Western Australia; 22 November 2011. Hidden Shoal Recordings is proud to announce the release of new EP *The European* by Dutch-American singer-songwriter Kramies.**

Produced by Todd Tobias (Guided By Voices, Robert Pollard, Circus Devils), *The European* sets Kramies' gorgeous voice and acoustic guitar within a glowing tableau, epic in scope yet delicate in detail. The EP fades into view with 'Intro', a simple cyclical pattern of guitar, piano and vocals gradually subsumed by drones and distortion. This leads into the majestic, glacial sway of the title track, guaranteed to make the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end. Then, 'Inventors' is the album's dark, shadowy heart, a ballad of subtle intensity.

Single 'Coal Miners Executive Club' is an emotionally resonant vortex of swooning pop built around an absolutely heartbreaking chord progression on synthesizer, carried skyward as layers and layers of instruments build and build. And the closing 'Antiquarian Days' is a fitting fade towards a sepia horizon, burbling loops and chiming guitars accompanying Kramies' gentle lament.

*"Perhaps the best thing about Kramies' music, aside from its ability to create an otherworldly escape for the listener, is the fact that he can actually sing. While most indie/experimental artists drown themselves out in a sea of lo-fi, Kramies' vocal presence is stellar."* – **Digital Music Press**

Kramies Windt began writing songs at the age of 14 after buying his first synth, acoustic guitar and four-track recorder at an estate sale in his home town of Cleveland, Ohio. He started playing in bands around the age of 16, and come the late '90s, developed his own sound, based around old-world imagery of cobblestone streets, old trains and castles, and romantic, poetic moments. Kramies and his band went on to open for Spiritualized,

Granddaddy, Yo La Tengo, Calexico, Stereolab, Dirty Three and Red House Painters.

Come 2004, Kramies decided to focus on writing and recording in the studio, and began working with producer and engineer Todd Tobias (Guided By Voices, Robert Pollard, Circus Devils) and guitarist David Paolucci. Working with Todd and David, Kramies released two albums to critical acclaim: *Golden Like A New Thing* (ACM, 2008) and *Castle of Ghosts* (ACM, 2010).

In 2010 Kramies began writing the songs for *The European* EP, his first Hidden Shoal release, in his coat closet in Colorado. The songs were demoed on four-track, painting a vivid sonic picture of the direction the release would take, drawing on the haunting old-world imagery he loved so much as a kid. The demos were sent to David Paolucci to start working on guitar parts in Ohio. Kramies then toured Ireland, playing turn-of-the-century pubs and small concert halls, which brought new ideas and layers to the songs. *The European* EP was recorded in June and July 2011 with Todd Tobias, with prominent, swirling guitar work from Dave Paolucci.

*The European* EP is available in mp3 and postcard CD formats from the Hidden Shoal Store. The postcard CD comes in a numbered limited edition of 100, with artwork by Stuart Medley.

Hidden Shoal Recordings is an Australia-based independent music label that has earned a reputation for releasing exciting and engaging new independent music that is not bound by genre or style. Hidden Shoal Recordings has been chosen as one of Textura's favourite labels and has been dubbed "This generation's 4AD" by prominent New York radio host DJ Mojo.

**Label Site:** <http://music.hiddenshoal.com>

**Label Store:** <http://agora.hiddenshoal.com>

**Kramies:** <http://www.myspace.com/kramies>