



Sean McCann

The Leopard

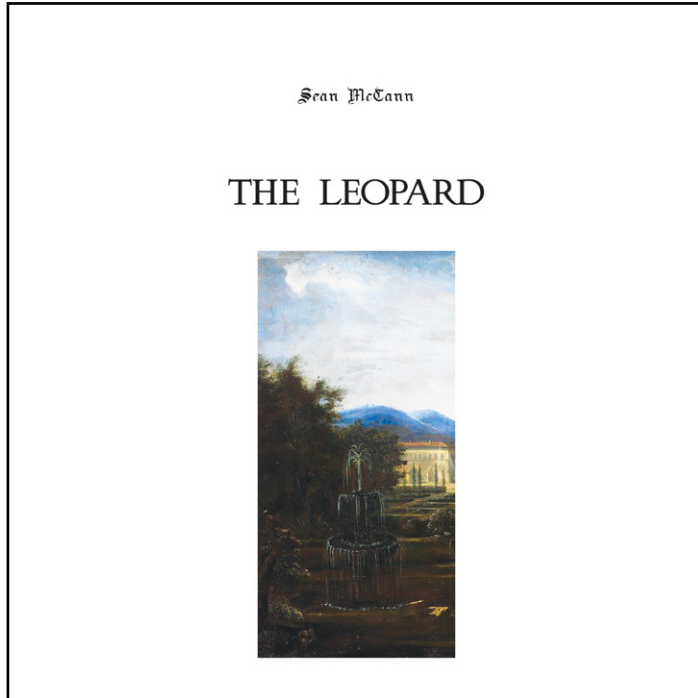
Sean McCann presents **The Leopard**, an opera.

Dialog, music, and elaborate sound design fold into a narrative fantasy about self-cannibalization and transformation. Written and recorded over five years, this is McCann's first album since 2019's **Puck** (Recital) and his first opera. The opera is voiced by composer Martin Bresnick, artist Nour Mobarak, musician Max Eilbacher [Horse Lords], and voice actors David George and Krystel Abimeri. McCann performed and recorded most of the music himself, meticulously editing every sound.

The opera opens with an ornate musical overture before plunging into a surreal tableau: characters on a sailboat cooking and consuming themselves over a makeshift stove. Over the course of eight scenes, the plot continually dissolves and recombines, inducing a narcotic dreamstate. The opera is overseen by Copy, a chimerical figure who both guides and distorts the plot. Four wordless interludes feature Copy in a greenhouse, playing old Victrola records while pruning floral incarnations of each persona. One hears screaming silverware, sprays of watering cans, a thunderstorm, and the baking of each character into a loaf of bread. Musical flourishes appear, such as Barbara Strozzi's devastating *Lagrima mie* (1659) which is performed in an empty library alongside a Gertrude Stein-esque spoken incantation read by Nour Mobarak. The opera closes with a grand coda; a haunting, elegiac work for violins and choir.

The opera is accompanied by a book that contains the libretto along with unspoken texts and artwork. Each scene in the book contains a "Copy path," a kind of plot betrayal or text smear that beckons the listener to fall inside plot holes and uncover flickers of meaning for themselves.

The Leopard navigates a new form that lays somewhere between radio-play, experimental opera, and dioramic film.



Artist: Sean McCann

Title: The Leopard

Publisher: Recital

Catalog: R114

Format: 2x CD + Book / 3xLP + Book

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Purchase: <https://recitalprogram.bandcamp.com/album/the-leopard>

Distro / Press: seantristanmccann@gmail.com

Libretto by Sean McCann

Sound design and music by Sean McCann

- Limited 2x CD and book set edition of 300pc
- Limited 3xLP and book set edition of 100pc
- 88-page book with full libretto & artwork

Artist Bio:

Sean McCann (b. 1988, California) is a composer, curator, and sound engineer who examines pastoral and bizarre beauty. His chamber compositions have premiered in London (Cafe OTO), Stockholm (Fylkingen), Moscow (Kymatic Ensemble), and Toronto (Thin Edge New Music Collective). Since 2012, McCann has concurrently operated the record label Recital, which publishes contemporary experimental music, alongside archival Fluxus and sound poetry editions. His recent albums include *Puck* (2019, LP), *Music for Private Ensemble* (2013, LP), and *Music for Public Ensemble* (2016, 2xLP), which marry orchestral settings and text abstractions.

