

**PRESSTEXT 'DETACHED VIEWS'
DEBUT ALBUM - MARCO ULLSTEIN QUINTET**



Release: August 30th 2024

Emme Record Label (Fara in Sabina, Italy)

An introspective album, characterised by a strong focus on melody, composition, and ensemble work. This is how we could summarise the features of *Detached Views*, the debut album of the quintet led by vibraphonist Marco Ullstein, set to be released on Friday, August 30th, by Emme Record Label. The band, which is perfectly integrated into the Dutch music scene and has various experiences in Italy as well, is completed by Pietro Mirabassi on tenor sax, Emiliano Roca on guitar, Francesco V. Parsi on drums, and Arjun Ramdas on bass. The great chemistry among the members has generated an original sound with dreamlike qualities, where the instruments engage in perfect dialogue without ever going overboard, crafting clear melodies and working meticulously on the dynamics of each track. The vibraphone is the instrument that most represents the bridge between modernity and tradition, between present and past, although what truly sets the album apart are the diverse sonic textures produced by all the instruments together. Vibraphonist Marco Ullstein's compositions are characterised by the presence of various musical languages and his background in classical studies. The music also serves as a vehicle to tell stories through original arrangements that allow space for individual expression and draw the audience into a journey rich with melodic and rhythmic contrasts. The tracks are inspired by events that describe emotional connections with places, whether familiar spaces or new homes that open up different perspectives on life. It's a sonic journey that delves into themes like home, heritage, and change, with each composition telling its own musical and emotional story.

The album opens with *Enchantment*, an introduction to the quintet's sound that establishes the reflective theme of the album. *Aspire* symbolises the initial spark born from inspiring experiences and develops through a melancholic melody that contrasts with the lively and energetic accompaniment of pulsating arpeggios. *Breeze* highlights the musicians' influences and origins, showcasing their ability to blend elements of avant-garde jazz and swing. *The Present Past* is a reflection on the past, whose influences are still felt in the present: it begins with a duo of sax and guitar and then gives way to a melancholic vibraphone solo until the sax reprises the initial theme, concluding with a powerful crescendo. *Detached Views* represents an introspective call to a distant home, opening with a poignant sax melody, followed by a response from the vibraphone and the band: an invitation to meditate, to foster reflection and insight. With the slow waltz *Raindrops*, the quintet showcases its most distinctive sound, where the various timbres of the instruments blend together. The steady rhythm of the drums creates a flow that focuses on a minimal yet powerful melody. *Fragments of Home* tells a story made up of small fragments that remind us of our home, even when we are far away. The album concludes with *Dream Traveller*, a track with dreamlike qualities that describes a journey through dreams and desires, awaiting their fulfillment. The energetic rhythm of the vibraphone and double bass contrasts with a floating melody that develops into an exciting guitar solo, evoking enchanted thoughts.“

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"In recent years, music has guided me to diverse places and inspiring environments. Each new setting revealed different facets of reality and provided fresh perspectives on my certainties and visions. The album "Detached Views" explores how leaving familiar spaces and discovering new homes can open up new viewpoints. Each composition is inspired by a specific event, capturing and narrating a piece of that journey."

- Marco Ullstein

"With great pleasure, I listened to this new recording by Marco's quintet. It's beautiful music with a fantastic atmosphere, played by five excellent musicians who create a cohesive band sound together. Marco's compositions are wonderful, providing each musician ample room to showcase their individual talents. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to Marco's music and his group, and I wish them a bright musical future together."

- Rob van Bavel (Dutch Pianist and Educator)

Marco Ullstein is a German-Italian vibraphonist, percussionist, and composer from Munich. In November 2022, he founded the Marco Ullstein Quintet while living in The Hague, Netherlands. Since then, he has achieved several successes at international competitions and on renowned stages with his band.