



Artist: Tuomas Rantanen
Title: Empire EP

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City Wall presents Empire EP, the second part of the Tuomas Rantanen four part Roaring Dunes suite. This next addition continues the fearless exploration of dark soundscapes set against thumping textured beats and intricate percussion. Empire and Triumph have a similar deep vibe, while Valley is all about a single driving motif. Saga is the most alternative and explores several themes within itself. Rantanen sees the work of the composer in the same vein as that of the carpenter or sculptor. Extending this idea further Rantanen sees his musical compositions as comparable to forms that create part of our living environment. In this sense they find their own special place within our horizon, like a painting on a wall, or a vase on a stand, or even the air we breathe. They are there but not there, present but not domineering.



Empire ▶

Stomping, roaring beats with strong, consistent percussives. Echoes of Rantanen's previous release Millennium here but with a deeper filling. Stinging rides add blinding energy that will see dancefloors seething and reeling. Epic extra-terrestrial vibes are emitted from the twisted SFX while the off-beat honk in the second section is a nice twist.



Valley ▶

Simply genius! Rantanen shows that he is not just capable of the deep and obscure by giving us this absolute dancefloor classic. The thumping beats and repetitive midrange motif are the essential essence here while the shuffle percussion, synthetic choirs and space creating SFX are like icing that makes the cake. This track is so good it will work anywhere! House? Techno? Trance? Away with your trappings, let's groove!

Triumph ▶

Like Empire there are more rattling percussions here but this time with a kinda striding synth pad pattern that walks alongside the beats. This striding synth line then grows into something bigger and brighter as we enter the breakdown. As we come out the other side various alien styled voice effects talk and breathe amongst the clatter.

Saga ▶

The dark, detuned, textured ambient atmosphere is particularly beautiful in this one and it is wonderfully complimented by the clean, crisp beats. The breakdown sees the introduction of a kinda electric metallic breakbeat that sizzles its way into the mix before the beats drop again. Rantanen then teases the mix with a sumptuous swirling low-mid drone that leads into the extended outro sequence that is almost a whole new track in itself. All in all, a creation of several parts.

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