

Artist: *Tomo Katsurada*

Album title: Dream of the Egg

Sound link: *https://on.soundcloud.com/rRUAJ4Fo2VsWvL5Z8*

Release Date: *15 November 2024*

Label: *Future Days Shop*

Artist Bio:

Tomo Katsurada is a Japanese artist currently based in Amsterdam, best known as the founder and lead singer of the acclaimed psychedelic band *Kikagaku Moyo*. During his time with the band, Tomo not only composed music but was also responsible for all art direction, crafting the band’s distinct aesthetic and sound.

Now embarking on a solo journey, Tomo is set to explore new artistic territories by integrating his musical compositions within various visual mediums. His debut solo album marks the beginning of an ambitious project—a long-held dream of creating soundtracks for picture books. This album is the first in a series of five, each dedicated to a unique picture book, where Tomo aims to push the boundaries of physical media by merging music with visual storytelling.

Tomo's unique multi-instrumental textures offer listeners a broad soundscape filled with playfulness and spirituality. His work invites you to embark on an immersive journey where sound and visuals intertwine, creating a truly transcendent experience.

Album Description:

*"Dream of the Egg" is the debut solo mini album by Tomo Katsurada, known for his work with the Japanese psychedelic band Kikagaku Moyo. This project is a unique fusion of music and visual art, inspired by the Japanese 1920s children's book “*Yume No Tamago (Dream of the Egg)”*. It reveals a deeply personal journey, reflecting Tomo's dreams and the numerous rebirths experienced in 2024—a year marked by profound new beginnings in every facet of his life.*

*The creation of this mini album was driven by a passion for raw and immediate expression. Every song was crafted and recorded with only the materials available to him at the time, embracing an organic and handmade atmosphere. By eschewing rhythm clicks and standard instrumental tunings, a spontaneous sound emerged, capturing the essence of both uncertainty and immediacy. Adding to this distinctive sonic landscape, guest musician Jonny Nash (UK) contributed ethereal guitar sounds on the first and final tracks, enriching the record's dream-like quality.*

*The journey begins with the opening track, "Moshimo," which means "If..." in Japanese. Here, Jonny's guitar weaves seamlessly with the vocal melody, creating a harmonious dialogue. The first half of the album concludes with "Zen Bungalow" a cover of Gabriel Yared's “Bungalow Zen” from the soundtrack of the film “*Betty Blue 37°2 Le Matin”*.* This particular track is his partner’s favourite song to listen to every morning and left a profound impression on him. One day, he heard a song in his dream that combined both of these tracks and loved how they blended together. This experience inspired him to create a new arrangement, "Zen Bungalow," which has become a central piece of the “Dream of the Egg” album.

*The third track serves as an interlude, printed on a flexi disk attached to the middle of a picture book, allowing listeners to play the track manually by hand. This interlude transitions the listener into"Inner Garden," a bittersweet folk song that explores themes of love.*

*The EP's narrative spans 20 minutes, culminating in the final title track “*Dream of the Egg”. *This piece features a delicate session between Tomo & Jonny, combining cello and guitar to create a spectrum of tones that evoke the imagery of a rainbow. The focus on smooth dynamics and meticulous play reflects an intent to convey a sense of physical trembling. This track sounds like the beginning of a new dream;*

*as if the egg of one’s dream is about to hatch, bringing a sense of anticipation and wonder to the listener.*

*Throughout the album, a variety of instruments come into play, drifting between notes and embracing the beauty of imperfection. By incorporating free-form sounds in a highly technological age, the record aims to reconnect listeners with the tangible, human-made quality of sound.*

Future Days Shop:

*"Dream of the Egg" is the first musical release from* Future Days Shop*, a concept store and workshop space founded in 2024 by textile artist Eloïse Ptito and musician Tomo Katsurada. Located in Amsterdam,* Future Days Shop *is dedicated to clothing, art, and music, with a mission to unite people through the power of color, craft, and sound. The store curates unique items that embody a sense of future-forward creativity.*

The Picture Book:

*Complementing the music is a beautifully-designed picture book illustrated by the acclaimed Japanese artist Shoko Otake. Printed by Amsterdam’s esteemed bookstore "Terry Bleu", this 20-page book will feature captivating visual artwork and storytelling that enhances the musical experience.*

• 500 pieces

• A 20-page picture book illustrated by Shoko Otake

• 2 x 7-inch vinyl records

• A Manual-play flexi