

## FERNANDO LAGRECA "CONTROL"

**Format:** LP / digital

**Label:** Irregular

**Release Date:** November 17, 2014

### Tracklist:

#### SIDE A

A1. Over

A2. Loved

A3. X

A4. Way of Control

A5. Yes

#### SIDE B

B1. Quiet Lake

B2. Run

B3. Djurgården

B4. Living Light



### Entering the album:

There's no pretense in calling **Control** -the second album from Uruguayan electronic music wunderkind **Fernando Lagreca**- an LP because, aside from the fact that it's a shameless work of sonic wonder, it'll be edited in a flashy 12" vinyl format by **Irregular** label. More importantly, this second effort from Lagreca signals a new stage in the composer's career. In *Control*, we hear him experimenting with synthetic landscapes and taking on a more obscure version of pop that channels heavily the spirit of those genres that may go into hiatus from time to time but never die. Genres like slo-mo disco, bohemian glo-fi and new wave dominate the record's nine tracks but, rest assured, Lagreca makes sure to never turn his back on the danceworthy grooves that have made his albums required listening for electronic music lovers.

If you already feel comfortable listening to artists like **Washed Out**, **Solar Bears**, and **Tycho**, or if 90's acts like the British duo **Underworld** are your drug of choice, Lagreca just constructed a sonic home for you.

### The tracks:

*Control* hooks you from the get-go with the solid opener "**Over**", a minimalist track that becomes addictive with every listen. The song, built over a simple rhythmic base, slowly builds up with every synth hook that Lagreca artfully adds every few seconds until it all comes down to a haunting, reverb-filled conclusion. The synths play like they aspire to become voices, marking the beginning of the journey that is *Control*. The trip continues with "**Loved**", an intuitive follow-up track that playfully stands at the intersection between synth and psychedelic pop. Its mid-tempo grooves are underscored by a thin layer of Lagreca's raspy but passionate vocals and glued together by a barrage of distorted guitars and sweet, melodic arrangements that create a gloomy, introspective vibe.

The next two tracks "**X**" and "**Way of Control**" are a double dose for 80's underground house addicts. They're back to back solid old school jams, with rhythm and composition meant to evoke those moments that happen at 4am on dark dancefloors. If you judge by these tracks alone, you can tell how Lagreca has pulled out the heavy machinery for this LP; using instruments along the lines of a **Nord Lead**, an **OP-1**, or the **Analog Four** and **Octatrack** built by **Electron**. I would add these tracks to my "New Romantic" collection, along with **Visage's "Fade to Grey"** maxi, no questions asked.

Side A closes with "**Yes**", one of the coldest and most enigmatic tracks on *Control*, even within the hedonistic musical language that runs throughout the record. With a pulsating beat, the track is equally valid for those brave souls in the middle of the dance floor on a dingy New York City basement nightclub or for those drivers out all night cruising a sleepy city. In that case, play it on loop and see what happens.

Side B opens with **“Quiet Lake”**, the first single off the release. In contrast to **“Yes”**, the track features fine layers and arpeggios, reminiscent of the less commercial Italo-disco and the passionate harmonies of the French band **Air**.

Contrary to its title, the follow-up **“Run”** is anything but fast paced, but that doesn't mean it doesn't make us sweat a little bit. There's no trace of punk on this one, but instead we get an ode to analogue instrumentation, with dense synths and a weighty atmosphere that challenges your senses. This track paves the way for **“Djurgården”**. In Sweden, *Djurgården* is an island and theme park located in Stockholm, and like its location implies, the track feels like an escape of sorts, but the escape is no paradise. As cold and distant as a knife's blade, the track features dark synth lines and a menacingly haunting hook that echoes in your head: “Don't take it away”. With its amazing use of silence and space, it's a vanguardists fucking dream.

Sitting last but equally pretty is **“Living Light”**, a cross between classic EBM and a more aesthetic version of lounge. It's a risky closer, but it couldn't have gone any other way for Lagreca. After creating an album so inspired and uninhibited, “Living Light” is the best way to keep us on our toes while for what's next.



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