Les Marquises – Pensée Magique (2014)

01 – Les Maîtres Fous 02 – Cassette (Hands of Fire) 03 – In the Forest 04 – The Visitor 05 – Night Falls On the Dale 06 – Chasing the Hunter 07 – Jennie's Magic Cast-On Bass – Jean-Sébastien Nouveau (tracks: B2, B3), Martin Duru (tracks: A1, A4) Cello – Jean-Sébastien Nouveau (tracks: A2, A4) Composed By, Arranged By, Mixed By – Jean-Sébastien Nouveau Drum Machine – Jean-Sébastien Nouveau (tracks: B1) Drums – Jean-Sébastien Nouveau (tracks: A1, B3), Jonathan Grandcollot (tracks: A2, A4, B2), Julien Nouveau (tracks: A1) Guitar – Julien Nouveau (tracks: A1), Martin Duru (tracks: A4) Keyboards – Jean-Sébastien Nouveau (tracks: A1 to B3), Jonathan Grandcollot (tracks: B2), Martin Duru (tracks: A2, A4, B3) Melodica – Jean-Sébastien Nouveau (tracks: A2, B2) Percussion – Jean-Sébastien Nouveau (tracks: A1, A3, A4, B3), Jonathan Grandcollot (tracks: A2, B2) Saxophone – Etienne Jaumet (tracks: A4) Trumpet – Souleymane Felicioli (tracks: A1) Violin – Jean-Sébastien Nouveau (tracks: A2), Pierre-Alain Vernette (tracks: B3) Vocals – Benoît Burello (tracks: B3), Don Nino (tracks: A1), Jean-Sébastien Nouveau (tracks: A2), Johannes Buff (tracks: A4, B3) Zither – Jean-Sébastien Nouveau (tracks: A2, B2)

David McKenna speaks to Jean-Sébastien Nouveau about the influence of Jacques Brel and Henry Darger on his new project as Les Marquises.

'Les Marquises' is the title of a stately late-period song (you'll also sometimes find it as the title of an album) from Belgian chanson icon Jacques Brel. It takes its name from the Marquesas, as they're known in English - a remote group of islands in French Polynesia where both the painter Paul Gaugin and, later, Brel would conclude their lives, the former overdosing on morphine while ravaged by syphillis, the latter from cancer.

Jean-Sébastien Nouveau took his time coming round to Brel. When I spoke to him about his first album under the Les Marquises name, 2010's Lost Lost Lost, he said “The song had a big

impact on me. Prior to that, I didn't really know his music that well, I even found it rather unpleasant... I hated that emphatic singing style of his! But I discovered 'Les Marquises' and that was a way into Brel's world. During the recording of Lost Lost Lost I listened to 'Les Marquises' a lot, and his description of the islands in the song were definitely a big inspiration.

On La Pensée Magique, he drew again on the dramatic possibilities of an island setting but this time not from the point of view of an indiginous people - this time it's about those dangerous outsiders penetrating the unkown. "A very clear narrative came to me during the recording of the album. It would convey the impressions and sensations of a journey across the length and breadth of an island, with different stages. I could see the sequence of scenes quite clearly – scene one: coming ashore on a beach, scene two: entering the jungle, scene three: reaching a clearing... also films like Peter Brook's Lord of the Flies ('Night Falls On The Dale' opens with what might be a simulated conch-shell blast) and Fitzcarraldo or Aguirre, The Wrath Of God by Werner Herzog were a great inspiration." --- David McKenna, thequietus.com

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