

Samantha James – Subconscious (2010)

Written by bluelover

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1. *Waves of Change*
2. *Veil*
3. *Satellites*
4. *Amber Sky* [*play*](#)
5. *Subconscious*
6. *Tonight - (featuring Messertraum)*
7. *Life Is Waiting*
8. *Illusions*
9. *Tree of Life*
10. *Free*
11. *Find a Way*
12. *Maybe Tomorrow*
13. *Again and Again* [*play*](#)

Counter to the overpowering vocals of many female dance singers, Samantha James' low-key delivery meshes with her underlying beats to hypnotize listeners and take them to a euphoric state.

It is appropriate, then, that her latest album is called *Subconscious* and that the set ventures away from exclusively utilizing house melodies, which were so prevalent on her last release, *Rise*. Not that they are gone completely, as proven with "Illusions," a lightly pulsating composition which drives James to proclaim that visions are illuminating her mind and "showing me the magic in my life."

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The fragile song that's sung on "Subconscious" gives nod to an unnamed source whose "energy is turning [her] on" while also giving permission for said source to "take me where you think I belong." Requiring less thought are the "aaaah-aaaah-whoooooas" of "Life is Waiting," a proverbial dance porn with repetitious statements sang over music made strictly for dancing.

Making a foray into pop is "Satellites," a smooth, guitar-driven cut tinged with light nursery rhyme and symphonic elements that speaks of transcending beyond the here and now. "Again and Again" is all piano, as Samantha goes acapella to speak of loss and grief.

"Waves of Change" embraces James' traditional sound as her voices gently wraps around the track's atmospheric touches and paradise themes. By comparison, "Veil" is a more up-tempo, though the subject matter can be interpreted the same, as Samantha encourages listeners "to be one."

Subconscious demonstrates a versatility that's rare among dance music vocalists, as James successfully showcases pop-crossover potential, an ability to handle a club groove and a smooth jazz delivery of intoxicating vocals. Taken together, these traits make the disc an audible treat compared to mainstream music's over-caffeinated offerings. ---j.ly, thatsmyjamradio.wordpress.com

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