

= Kaleidoscope Dream =

Kaleidoscope Dream is the second studio album by American R & B recording artist Miguel , released on September 25 , 2012 , by RCA Records . After attaining commercial standing with his 2010 debut album All I Want Is You , Miguel wanted to play a larger creative role in his music and principally produced and wrote Kaleidoscope Dream . He recorded most of the album at Platinum Sound Recording Studios in New York City and MJP Studios in Los Angeles , and worked with producers Warren " Oak " Felder , Jerry " Wonda " Duplessis and Salaam Remi , among others .

The music on Kaleidoscope Dream draws on R & B , pop , funk , rock and soul styles , as well as elements from electronic and psychedelic music . The album 's producers incorporated dense bass lines , buzzing synthesizers , and hazy , reverbed sounds in the songs , which deal mostly with sex , romance , and existential ideas . Miguel titled Kaleidoscope Dream as a metaphor for life and wanted the songs to reflect his lifestyle and personality .

Before Kaleidoscope Dream was released , Miguel previewed its songs virally through a series of free EPs . It was also promoted with three singles , including his biggest hit to date " Adorn " , and his touring in North America and Europe during 2012 to 2013 . The album debuted at number three on the Billboard 200 with first @-@ week sales of 71 @,@ 000 copies , and by June 2015 , it had sold 535 @,@ 000 copies . Kaleidoscope Dream received rave reviews from critics , who praised its eccentric style and Miguel 's singing and songwriting .

= = Background = =

After it was shelved by Jive Records for two years , Miguel released his debut album All I Want Is You in November 2010 . It sold poorly at first and was underpromoted by Jive , amid the label 's dissolution . However , as its singles attained radio airplay and Miguel toured in its promotion , the album became a sleeper hit and helped him garner an audience and commercial standing . He also garnered a following with his fervent concert performances . After Jive was shut down and absorbed by RCA Records , Miguel acquired a new marketing team to develop himself as more than a typical urban artist , having felt pigeonholed into being marketed as one by Jive . He said that the experience of balancing creativity and business sense on his first album made him more confident in his approach on Kaleidoscope Dream .

Miguel sought to reintroduce himself artistically with the album . Inspired by his more alternative musical influences , he wanted to change the sound and expectations of R & B songs on urban radio . He explained the album 's title as " a metaphor for our life ; everyone has their own Kaleidoscope Dream , it is the life that they project and it is the life that they are solidifying with their conscious decision and their subconscious feelings . " Miguel also said that the album represents the fantasies that are conveyed through dreams , which he felt embody " the purest form of fantasy we unleash through our subconscious ... the truest freedom we can experience . Totally unrepressed and totally creative . "

= = Writing and recording = =

Miguel worked on the album for approximately three months . He sought to play a larger creative role than he had on All I Want Is You , and produced most of Kaleidoscope Dream and either wrote or co @-@ wrote every song on the album . He recorded most of the album at Platinum Sound Recording Studios in New York City and MJP Studios in Los Angeles ; the songs " Arch & Point " and " Gravity " were recorded at Gustavo 's Golden Gloves Gymnasium in Los Angeles . He spent almost two years in New York City , which he felt let him explore " the edgy side " of his life and consequently made his sonical approach grittier , saying in an interview for The Village Voice , " I 'm not the ' go to the club and pop bottles ' kind of guy . That 's not my lifestyle . I really like to party , but it 's ... just darker . I 'm looking for the speakeasy on the Lower East Side that has a secret door and a password . " Miguel recorded " Adorn " in 2011 in the bedroom of his Los Angeles apartment , which he used as a makeshift studio at the time . Parts of the album were edited by Miguel and his

engineers using Pro Tools .

Miguel wanted the album to be " a pure and honest projection of my lifestyle and my kaleidoscope dream " , and used the music 's pace and sound to represent his lifestyle and the lyrics to represent his personality . To sustain his creative approach , Miguel avoided media outlets that he usually visited for music , including radio and Internet blogs . He drew on musical influences from early in his life , including classic rock , country rock and funk , to incorporate rock flourishes on the album . He also incorporated the Roland TR @-@ 808 to give the music a distinct percussive feel . He enlisted an orchestra and incorporated string arrangements , along with a drum loop , to the album 's title track , which he felt aurally defined the moods of his personality . Miguel also worked with previous collaborators Salaam Remi and Nathan " Happy " Perez , among other producers . Recording artist Alicia Keys sang background vocals on the song " Where 's the Fun in Forever " , Elle Varner co @-@ wrote " Use Me " and Brook D 'Leau of J * Davey played keyboards on " Candles in the Sun " .

Apart from sexual themes , Miguel wrote about conversational and existential topics . When writing " Pussy Is Mine " , he drew on his sexual behavior as a single man and " moments of power and vulnerability " with a sexually promiscuous woman . Miguel originally wrote " Where 's the Fun in Forever " with Alicia Keys for her 2012 album *Girl on Fire* at a recording studio in Jamaica . He conceived the song while spending time with Keys on the roof of the studio , which he recounted in an interview for MTV News : " [A] ll I had was this amazing blanket of stars in the sky and the sound of waves in the distance , great vibe ... So here I am trying to be creative for Alicia and it just dawned on me : Well , what if we did live forever ? Could we have accomplished all of these amazing things ? Would we have come so far ? ... Would we have come up with all these theories or built all of these amazing , amazing architectural beautiful things ... or would we have been lazy ? " The album 's title track was written by Miguel while he was working on *All I Want Is You* . In reaction to Jive 's request for more conventional R & B songs , he composed the song with unusual lyrics and without a hook , chorus , or form .

= = Music and lyrics = =

According to The Independent 's Holly Rubenstein , *Kaleidoscope Dream* is " widely considered a leading example " of alternative R & B ; Miguel himself described it as " avant soul " . In the opinion of NPR 's Frannie Kelley , the record combined R & B , pop , funk , rock and soul genres . Its music features sparse production , eccentric details , thick bass lines , buzzing synthesizers , and hazy , reverbed sounds . Allmusic 's Andy Kellman found the album " funkier and weirder " than *All I Want Is You* and observed an " illusory atmosphere ... intensified by some unexpected touches " . Maura Johnston said much of it " sounds , as the title might suggest , fractal . " As an R & B album , The A.V. Club 's Evan Rytlewski said , *Kaleidoscope Dream* deviated from genre conventions by minimizing the influence of hip hop ; Jim DeRogatis believed it drew heavily on psychedelic rock and psychedelic pop . Music writers compared the album 's style to Prince , Alex Macpherson of The Guardian perceives a " headier aesthetic " than on *All I Want Is You* , with " faded psychedelia " and " intimate experiments in Purple Rain @-@ esque rock " . Writing about the record for WNYC , Gretta Cohn claimed Miguel was " redefining what contemporary R & B can be " . Miguel said he " definitely think it 's an R & B record , though other people may not ... [Listeners] are so conditioned to expect certain things out of current R & B , and it 's about following a formula . But R & B was once live music , it was psychedelic , it was rock , it was funk , and all these genres stem from soul music ... There would be no hip @-@ hop or rock without R & B. It was important for me to be true to what R & B is , and that is soulful . "

The album 's lyrics generally deal with themes of adult love , meaningful sex , and romance . Andrew Ryce from Pitchfork Media interprets its " overarching theme " to be " the highly sexualized seen through the lens of the eager and innocent . " Miguel 's lyrics express modesty , yearning , vulnerability , and cheeky humor . Kelley likens his songwriting to Tony ! Toni ! Toné ! and observes " Little Richard @-@ level insinuations " and " absurd provocations in the style of Akinyele " . Music journalist Jim DeRogatis views that Miguel eschews braggadocio and is " man enough to admit his

own insecurities and question whether he 's worthy of love ? or lustful indulgence . " Kaleidoscope Dream also explores the anxiety and momentary nature of sex and clubbing . Consequence of Sound 's Jeremy D. Larson views that Miguel employs a " fangs @-@ out approach to R & B " similar to Frank Ocean and The Weeknd , writing that " nothing shrouds Miguel and his directives , and worries , and prayers , and cat calls ? it 's all there , full of light and love , refracting through a kaleidoscope of rocks glasses , rainy windshields , and blood @-@ shot eyes . "

" Adorn " has both digital and analog sensibilities , with lyrics featuring brazen declarations of affection , and promises of adoration to a female subject . " Don 't Look Back " features amplified bass , bombastic drums , and metallic synths . Rob Markman of MTV News writes that the song " represents the morning after when the reality of the previous night 's efforts creep in . " Its closing interlude has Miguel crooning lyrics from The Zombies ' 1969 song " Time of the Season " over sentimental synths and musky , psychedelic music . " Use Me " features hollow , electronic sounds , heavily multitracked vocals , metronomic rhythms , and an industrialized mix of guitar and percussion . Its lyrics blur expressions of sexual nerves with gentle dominance , as the narrator instructs his lover how she can toy with him , An atmospheric pop rock song , " Do You ... " portrays a narcotic tryst and mixes amiable come @-@ ons with drug imagery . The psychedelic title track incorporates synthesizer arpeggios , minor chords , oscillating blips , fuzzy guitar , and a bassline interpolation of Labi Siffre 's 1975 " I Got The " . The sample 's groove is played at a different tempo than other instruments on the song . The song 's lyrics feature synesthetic imagery (" I taste you , infinite colors ") , and a boast by the narrator about kissing his subject 's third eye .

" The Thrill " has a sparse bass groove , layered keyboards , and existential lyrics with YOLO imagery . " How Many Drinks ? " has sardonic , swaggering lyrics and a rap verse by Miguel , who veers between seducer and user . " Where 's the Fun in Forever " features atmospheric drums and bass , an a cappella bridge , and rolling dynamics with measures that advance an argument . The song celebrates youthful bliss and preaches a carpe diem philosophy . It transitions into the rock song " Arch & Point " , which has sexually charged ballet metaphors and bare power pop elements . " Pussy Is Mine " features a high vocal range by Miguel , a rudimentary chord progression played on electric guitar , and a stripped , demo quality . The song is about sexual jealousy and an ignoble man 's plea for exclusivity in a casual relationship . Its sexually explicit , bawdy lyrics eschew masculine hip hop tropes for feelings of insecurity . The song is bookended by background studio chatter . " Candles in the Sun " is a slow burning , political soul song . It touches on senseless killings , drug @-@ infested communities , and questions the existence of God and the motives of governments . Chris Kelly of Fact writes that , along with " Adorn " , " Candles in the Sun " " bookend [s] the album with another tribute to Marvin Gaye , a la ' What 's Going On ? ' "

= = Promotion = =

After pitching the strategy to RCA , Miguel first marketed Kaleidoscope Dream virally with a three @-@ volume series of EPs entitled Art Dealer Chic , which were released as free downloads during February to April 2012 and previewed songs from the album . He released two more EPs ? Kaleidoscope Dream : Water Preview on July 31 and Air Preview on September 11 ? to digital retailers . In an interview for The Village Voice , Miguel said that the strategy allowed listeners to absorb the songs at his desired pace and called it " a great way for me to reconnect with my peers ... the people that I hang out with ? that go to the same shows , listen to the same music , read the same blogs , same magazines . "

" Adorn " was released as Kaleidoscope Dream 's lead single on August 7 , becoming a sleeper hit on urban radio . It was Miguel 's second number @-@ one single on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , and his highest charting single on the Billboard Hot 100 at number 17 . By September , the single had sold 190 @,@ 000 copies . According to NPR 's Audie Cornish , Miguel " broke through to a national audience in 2012 " with both " Adorn " and Kaleidoscope Dream . The second single " Do You ... " was released on September 18 , and reached number 32 on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs . The album 's third and final single , " How Many Drinks ? " , was released on March 3 , 2013 .

In support of Kaleidoscope Dream , Miguel embarked on a short promotional tour in the United States on September 26 , 2012 . He also promoted the record with television performances on 106 & Park , The Wendy Williams Show , Late Show with David Letterman , and Jimmy Kimmel Live ! . He subsequently toured in support of the album for six months throughout North America and Europe , including concert dates as a supporting act on Trey Songz ' Chapter V World Tour during November 2012 to February 2013 , and a headlining tour in the UK and Ireland during January 2013 . Miguel opened for Alicia Keys on her Set The World On Fire Tour during March and April . Although he did not choreograph his shows , he routinely rehearsed in a dance studio and practiced singing in front of a mirror . In concert , he performed dramatic leaps , staggers , and other moves fashioned after Little Richard and James Brown . He started ripping his shirt off during performances after being inspired by Songz ' concerts .

= = Release and reception = =

Kaleidoscope Dream was first released in vinyl LP format on September 25 , in an effort by RCA to make the deadline for the Grammy Awards ' eligibility period without charting prematurely on lower sales . The following week , it debuted at number three on the Billboard 200 , selling 71 @, @ 000 copies in the US . It was Miguel 's first album to be released in the United Kingdom , where it spent 15 weeks on the country 's R & B chart , peaking at number 13 . By February 20 , 2013 , the record had charted for 20 weeks on the Billboard 200 and sold 321 @, @ 400 copies , according to Nielsen SoundScan . The album was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) in June 2015 , with 535 @, @ 000 copies sold in the US at that point .

Kaleidoscope Dream received widespread acclaim from critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream publications , the album received an average score of 86 , based on 20 reviews . AllMusic 's Andy Kellman hailed it as " 2012 's most pleasurable pop @-@ R & B album " . Greg Kot said Miguel " creates a fluid , dreamscape environment that floats across eras with a connoisseur 's discerning feel for the telling detail . " Macpherson wrote in The Guardian of Miguel 's occasional " appeal to indie tropes " balanced by " genuinely thoughtful songwriting " , while admiring his use of a commercial breakthrough " as a springboard to radically change course " . Sean McCarthy from PopMatters wrote that , along with Frank Ocean 's Channel Orange , it showed R & B as the innovative genre in mainstream music during 2012 , while Los Angeles Times critic Randall Roberts said it " offers further evidence of a genre being reborn in 2012 . " Pitchfork Media 's Andrew Ryce hailed Miguel as " the rare vocalist who makes you feel what he 's singing about , even when his lyrics can be transparent . " Alfred Soto of The Quietus was appreciated Miguel 's ability to " articulate how a love man can be louche without being a douche . " Ken Capobianco from The Boston Globe was more critical , finding some of the songs overworked and Miguel " too remote for a true soul singer " . New York Times critic Jon Caramanica said Kaleidoscope Dream sounds inconsistent and " a little washed @-@ out , a blend of Prince @-@ isms and slurry grooves " , while Kellman complained of the lyrics occasionally veering " too close to ' artsy ' teenage erotic poetry " .

At the end of 2012 , Kaleidoscope Dream appeared on several critics ' lists of the year 's best records . Ann Powers named it the best album of 2012 . It was also ranked number 26 by Robert Christgau , number eleven by The Guardian , number 10 by the Chicago Tribune , number eight by Slate , number six by the Los Angeles Times , number five by AllMusic , Okayplayer , and Spin , number four by Entertainment Weekly , number three by Billboard , New York , and Now , and number one by Idolator . Metacritic named it the 12th best @-@ reviewed album of 2012 . The album was voted the fifth best album of 2012 in the Pazz & Jop , an annual poll of American critics nationwide , published by The Village Voice . Kaleidoscope Dream was nominated for the 2013 Grammy Award for Best Urban Contemporary Album , while " Adorn " was nominated for Best R & B Performance and Song of the Year , winning in the Best R & B Song category .

= = Track listing = =

Notes

" Don 't Look Back " contains a portion of " Time of the Season " written by Rod Argent .

" Kaleidoscope Dream " contains a sample from " I Got The " written and performed by Labi Siffre .

" How Many Drinks ? " contains a sample from " We 've Only Just Begun " written by Roger Nichols and Paul Williams , as performed by O 'Donel Levy .

= = Personnel = =

Credits were adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = = Weekly charts = = =

= = = Year @-@ end charts = = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =