

= Quique =

Quique / ki?k / is the debut album by British music group Seefeel and was released through Too Pure Records . The album was recorded in July 1993 and released in December later that year . Quique is a predominantly instrumental recording that is a mixture of both electronic and rock music . Guitarist Mark Clifford worked continuously on tracks while other members either completed them or provided component ideas .

The album was released in December 1993 in the United Kingdom where it received positive reviews from the British music critics . The album was followed up with the EP Starethrough on Warp in 1994 . It was re @-@ released in 2007 in a deluxe format that included unreleased , re @-@ mixed tracks and other music that was only released on compilations . The album continued to receive praise on its re @-@ issue .

= = Background and production = =

Mark Clifford formed Seefeel in 1992 after posting advertisements for potential group members . After performing a few shows and recording demos , Seefeel signed to the Too Pure Records label in late 1992 . Too Pure 's co @-@ owner Richard Roberts stated that upon hearing Seefeel 's demo " there was no obvious song for radio , but in my opinion it felt good . As we viewed ourselves as an experimental label that didn 't want to be tied to a sound or a scene , it seemed to make sense to release something with the band . " Seefeel chose Too Pure as they felt the label had respect for its artists , despite the low budget given to them to record Quique .

Clifford described the composition of the track as " messing around with a particular sound and then that sound would quite often just evoke a melody . Because the sounds we used were very much based around harmonics and stuff . " The songs were completed before recording in the studio and many tracks had been performed live prior to the album 's release . The only song written in the recording studio was " Charlotte 's Mouth " . All the songs on the album were completed in a way that would allow Seefeel to re @-@ create their music in a live setting .

Quique was recorded in July 1993 . During their time in the studio , Seefeel also recorded the EP More Like Space . Clifford felt that the tracks on More Like Space were simpler to create while those on Quique were more involved and took longer .

Daren Seymour stated that Clifford was " working on a constant basis . The other members of the band contributed either complete tracks or component ideas into the process ? some where accepted or not as Mark acted as the editor , and quite rightly so at times ! " After the album was mastered , the group had Too Pure remove a track from the album before it was released .

= = Music = =

The music on Quique is predominantly instrumental . Some tracks include wordless vocals from Seefeel 's guitarist and vocalist Sarah Peacock . Peacock 's vocals are low in the audio mix and are heard on the tracks " Industrious " and " Charlotte 's Mouth " . The tone of the album has been described as less dark than the group 's follow @-@ up albums Succour and CH @-@ VOX .

Music critics have applied several different genres to Quique , including dream pop , ambient techno , Intelligent Dance Music , and shoegaze . Glenn Swan of AllMusic described the album 's mixture of genres as " a sort of electronic hybrid that had listeners simultaneously scratching their heads " , while Jess Harvell of Pitchfork stated that the audience will " hear the beginnings of a still @-@ thriving genre that remains slippery and unnamed , purely electronic music with a strange , tangy rock aftertaste . "

Clifford was irritated by being placed within a genre by critics , stating that Seefeel " weren 't trying to fit into any one of their scenes and it felt a little like we were almost having convention thrust upon us when that was the very thing we were reacting against . " AllMusic compared the songs to ambient music by the Aphex Twin , while Exclaim ! noted that " Quique follows a similar path as Aphex Twin 's Selected Ambient work but with structures that a more rock @-@ based band like

Chapterhouse dreamed of matching . " The members of Seefeel were fans of Aphex Twin and said after playing shows with him and Autechre that they felt " more affinity with them than many of the bands we 'd met ? Robin Guthrie and the Cocteau Twins excepted ! "

" Climactic Phase # 3 " contains minimal percussion , a bass line that rises and falls that creates a faint pulse to guide it . Clifford described " Climactic Phase # 3 " as " an attempt to see how much juice I could squeeze out of a few repetitive loops . " Both " Climatic Phase No. 3 " and " Polyfusion " contain guitar feedback and drum machines . The vocals on " Polyfusion " were described by Sarah Peacock as not having lyrics , but vocalizations invented for their sonic value . Peacock said that she loved the song 's " groovy and dubby " feel , but disliked the " pitchy vocals " " Imperial " , " Climatic Phase # 3 " and " Plainsong " were made from what Clifford called " an obsession for sampling and sequencing . Very standard technology now , but at the time the ability to sample and shift and manipulate guitar sounds was fascinating to me . " Clifford would later describe " Plainsong " as attempt to put " the vaguest hint of a song into the equation " , having had difficulty with the rhythm of the song changing it continuously .

" Industrious " showcases ambiance and drums which anchor the mix . Clifford characterized the song as an audio experiment by processing drum machines through guitar effects . " Charlotte 's Mouth " , named after Charlotte Gainsbourg , contains guitar , bass and metallic percussion . The song began as a loop of Justin Fletcher 's percussion which later had guitar and vocals added . " Through You " is the only Seefeel song to use a keyboard on Quique . Clifford composed it quickly , noting that it was made in " about two hours " . " Filter Dub " was described by Clifford as heavily influenced by Jah Wobble . It does not feature a large amount of sampled guitars like other tracks on the album .

When asked how the group felt about the album in 2013 , Clifford felt the album was " it holds up okay ? some tracks more than others " and that he felt " mostly good about [the songs] " and " looked forward to playing certain tracks live " . Peacock spoke positively about the album saying that since it was their first album , it " will always be the fondest " .

= = Release = =

Quique was released in the United Kingdom in December 1993 on Too Pure Records . In February 1994 , Billboard announced that the American music label Astralwerks had recently signed Seefeel and were set to release their album in April 1994 . Quique was released on compact disc and cassette by Astralwerks . On 10 June 1994 , Astralwerks released " Plainsong " as a single , with two remixes of " Time to Find Me " by the Aphex Twin as b @-@ sides . In 2003 , Mark Clifford stated that Quique sold between sixteen or seventeen thousand copies . After the release of Quique , Seefeel left Too Pure Records and signed to the more electronic music oriented Warp . Warp released their follow @-@ up EP Starethrough on 18 April 1994 .

In 2007 , Quique was re @-@ released in a deluxe edition . This version of the album included a bonus disc containing unreleased tracks , re @-@ mixes and songs that appeared on compilation albums . Quique was re @-@ released on vinyl on 27 August 2013 through Light in the Attic Records and its Modern Classics Recordings series , in conjunction with Medical Records . It was released with a gate fold sleeve with 1000 copies printed on blue vinyl .

= = Critical reception = =

Spin 's Simon Reynolds gave Quique a positive review , stating that Seefeel has " struck a sublime groove between MBV 's sensual tumult and Aphex Twin 's ambient serenity " Robert Christgau gave the album a " neither " rating , indicating that an album " may impress once or twice with consistent craft or an arresting track or two . Then it won 't . " Jon Savage of Mojo gave a positive review of the album , stating that " throughout much of Quique , Seefeel achieve that spacious weightlessness hinted at by their titles : ' Climactic Phase # 3 ' , ' Filter Dub ' , ' Signals ' " In his review for Melody Maker , Simon Reynolds wrote that the group 's album " sometimes need a bit more space in their sound , a bit of emptiness to punctuate the drone @-@ swarm . Like [My Bloody Valentine] on

Loveless , they 're sometimes so blissed it 's suffocating " and that " overall , Quique is consummate , a blanched canvas for the imagination , and a cracking debut . "

In a review of the groups next album Succour , Select remarked negatively on Quique , opining that it " owed as much to My Bloody Valentine as Aphex , but never believably cemented the two influences . " The Times commented on the album in 1994 , stating that the album " drew sighs of admiration from critics and the public alike . " and that the album was " a beautiful document which has its roots in an experimentalism that began with La Monte Young and has , in recent years , been continued variously by Glenn Branca , the Swans and Spiritualised . The points of contact with any of the current crop of dance music @-@ makers are minimal . " In 1999 , CMJ summarized the British critics ' reception to Quique , stating that the album " earned Seefeel several months of adoration in the British music press and subsequent obscurity which usually follows such kudos "

Later reviews have been positive . Jess Harvell of Pitchfork opined that Quique " still sounds timeless . " Glenn Swan of AllMusic gave the album four and a half stars out of five , stating " this is Seefeel at their most ornate . They squint by staring into the geometric refractions of light and record the results . " Jason Ferguson of Harp described Quique as " shimmered with a futuristic ethereality that was far more substantial than the electro @-@ ambience of the era , but also much less assaultive than the shoegazers Seefeel was affiliated with early on . " and that the 2007 re @-@ issue was " a fitting tribute to a very unique sound . " The Los Angeles Times described the album as " underrated " and " that even 20 years later sounds like nothing else . " The Sunday Times gave the Redux edition a positive review , referring to Quique as the group 's " finest moment " and " If you like music to have structure , Quique will drive you barmy ; but if you consider the presence of the word " texture " in an album review to be a positive , you might well enjoy this languid landmark . " Cam Lindsay wrote in Exclaim ! that " While it doesn 't feel like a timely release , the re @-@ discovery of Seefeel (no word yet on a reunion) certainly verifies their relevance in today 's music , especially in light of neo @-@ gazers like Ulrich Schnauss and Tim Hecker . " In 1999 , Ned Raggett ranked the album at number 34 on his list of " The Top 136 or So Albums of the Nineties " .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Mark Clifford except where otherwise noted .

= = Credits = =