

## **Art Block - Brother**

This song throws me down; the paradox of sadness, struggle and beauty, an emotional trifecta, delivered with raw emotion and incredible music.

Doing it right; how I love it, only a piano and violin; such worthy selections for this song by an artist rightly confident, committed to and enmeshed with the storyline.

The violinist, Maria Kroon (Fleur de Sel), an enchanting and contrarily painful melody line that is brilliant. She inserts emotional struggle with skilful elegance.

Art is a musician and vocalist who chooses the instruments that best suit the very being of the song; only those, not adding others, that would detract from the powerful landing of the piece.

The piano is haunting and lovely and increased so by the violin; the older sides of banged up, worn coins that cry out for past this metaphor.

The piano plays effective subtleties; the very end, I love, wow! Lyrics, that are so beautifully written and delivered, truthfully, revealing the pain that cripples the victim of a childhood gone wrong. This shall be pungently relatable to many.

I've loved Art's voice for a long while. In it hear some of the best male vocals of the late 60s and 70s, with the female emotive power of Bonnie Raitt, ghosting through, threaded within an after breeze of those ones before. I know no one who sings like Art; almost as if he were singing from the sea, his mouth, partially open to the salty fluid, reflecting his enmeshment with the song resulting in wanton tones with a drowning cadence.

This is rare vocal wonderment; a perfect level of small-wave registers, concurrent with vocal richness and depth. His voice is both hypnotic and transcendent and pulls a listener inside of the song, almost to an uncomfortable degree, no matter any resistance.

Art shocked me with his song, "Starship," in late 2020. I still play it from time to time and can only explain this as a wish to go somewhere else in music and my current state of existence.

"Brother," and "Starship," get way under the skin and remain in your head; the kind of tune that earns an auto-lock in my head and shall seep in randomly from time to time, far down the way.

Absolutely amazing!

**Brecon Indie Reviewer Team**

Mary xxxx