SJB SELECTION

REVIEW · BLUES

The World Is in a Tangle | Jontavious Willis

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“The World Is in a Tangle” belongs to *Spectacular Class*, a project in which Willis moves through Delta blues, Piedmont, Texas blues and gospel.

But careful: this is not archaeology.

Willis doesn’t handle that tradition with white gloves. He takes it, plays it and bends it to his own voice.

The guitar snaps. The rhythm bounces. The voice tells the story.

Little else is needed.

That is exactly what’s interesting: Willis manages to evoke an ancient blues without turning into a copy of a musician who died eighty years ago. He knows the grammar, but he speaks in the present tense.

The result is an **old freshness**, a music with decades in its bones and new dust under its shoes.

The guitar has a dry, almost tactile attack. Small strikes, pauses, accelerations. The blues breathes because Willis doesn’t needlessly fill every space.

It’s like walking into a hundred-year-old house expecting a musty smell and discovering that someone has just thrown the windows wide open.

The title does the rest.

The world is still in a tangle. Politics, relationships, money, identity: the words change, the knot remains.

> ***Jontavious Willis doesn’t use the blues to go back. He uses it to show us that certain tangles change century, but keep tightening in the same place.***

LISTEN

The World Is in a Tangle — Jontavious Willis — is in our playlist Acoustic Blues, Roots & Dust.

Jontavious Willis. Updated every Friday. Selected by ear.

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