

Luomo

Convivial



(Huume) £10.99

Finnish microhouse pioneer Sasu Ripatti has assembled an array of disparate singers on his fourth album as Luomo, his pop-house alias – and the result is a superbly realised work, easily the equal of his 2003 masterpiece *The Present Lover*. Vocals range from Cassy's smoky, sultry depths to Jake Shears' disembodied sleaze and Sue Cie's laconic, Tom Tom Club-esque rapping; Ripatti responds by swathing them in intricate cocoons of sound. Wintry synths, clicking rhythms and detailed counterpoint melodies prevail, underpinned by a steady house pulse. Consequently, *Convivial* is an astonishingly intimate listen, similar in feel to Junior Boys' *Last Exit* or Björk's *Vespertine*. Its highest point comes on the impossibly romantic *Love You All*, on which Apparat swoons and sighs over imperious synth hits and sumptuous strings. Though each of *Convivial*'s nine tracks unfolds gradually – only one clocks in at under six minutes – not one moment is wasted. **Alex Macpherson**

SHARASSINE
ROBERUBES
BSE LUOMO
JE CONVIVIALSU
ADPKEATHEVA
RT CONHANGASS
TOWENHUBS