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Derek Piotr :: Raj (Self-Released)

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Experimental taglines may not do justice for **Raj**—**Derek Piotr**‘s latest (and third solo) collection of sound mangling. He’s collaborated with AGF and Richard Chartier, and continues to disseminate sound in the most creative of forces. Voices tethered in a similar vein to Tobias Lilja—stretched, clipped and pushing forth a technoid sphere of chants and dislocated by patches of bass-laden beatwork, clicks, bleeps and drones—**Raj** is an escape from the norms of exploratory electronics. If it weren’t for the microscopic synth notes, disjointed melodic bursts and crackling rhythms, **Raj** (which means *paradise* in Polish and *kingdom* in Hindi) would fall flat on a maze of mechanical audio shifts. Instead what is left to consume is filtered distortion, chimes and echoes of analogous debris—”Sands Defacing All Surfaces” best exemplifies a disruption of soundtrack motifs—dark, slithering click’n cuts lost in a cosmos of colorful noise. “Spine” tingles the sense with its submerged chaos and dithered fluctuations, both warm and cool to the touch. “Grave” takes on an Ant-Zen flare for tribal beats, squeaks and industrial textures and yet Derek Piotr manages to contain the entire package with off-kilter vocal treatments that are abrupt and hypnotizing. A definitive *paradise* of sonic crunching.