

DEREK PIOTR & MIKAH MEYER - WEATHER PATTERNS (CDR by Silent Media)

Silent Media is a label that cares about packaging. Here we have a 'laser cut chipboard box' with cards on fine stock and CDR. It's the collaboration between Meire Tadao, who is responsible for the photography on this release, Mikah Meyer and Derek Piotr. The latter we know from his earlier releases (see Vital Weekly 828, 799 and 871) as someone who loves computers to process sounds, and also with a fine dedication to using his voice as an instrument. Meyer is a tenor and met up with Piotr in 2011. They did some recordings in St. Peter's Cathedral in Danbury, Connecticut (where Piotr also recorded bits of his previous release, 'Raj') of Meyer singing Piotr poems, which, along with the church organ, were then processed on the computer. Meyer's singing sounds at times like Wim Mertens and at other times as a bunch of Gregorian monks down at the monastery and recorded through a long tune from the high middle ages until now. Quite voice heavy this release, and the voice as such is always recognizable. Piotr keeps his processing down to a minimum, but puts in those spots where it is needed. It's all less beat oriented than the previous and more about textured sounds and monk chanting. Occasionally there is a click, a cut or some hiss, as Piotr doesn't hide his previous interests. I said the previous was a major leap forward, and I'd like to say that about this one too. It's not another leap forward compared to the previous release; this is a further exploration into what Piotr does and as such another major leap in exploring more roads. (FdW)

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