

Boomkat Product Review:

Featuring collaborations with Gabber Modus Operandi's Ican Harem, Maja S. K. Ratkje, Fennesz and Lightning Bolt's Brian Chippendale, among others, 'Divine Supplication' is folklorist Derek Piotr's most ambitious, genre-bending album yet, melting traditional styles into daring sample collages and ecstatic electro-acoustic beatscapes. RIYL Jenny Hval, Aïsha Devi, Björk or Colin Self.

Piotr concluded his ethnographic 'The Devil Knows How' series last year, and 'Divine Supplication' sets a new standard for the eccentric American vocalist and composer. It was written as he was mired in the aftermath of a series of personal tragedies, but rather than wallow in sadness, Piotr was inspired to reach out to collaborators and heal through connection. He deconstructs samples of My Brightest Diamond's soaring 'That Point When' on the title track, using its weightless electric piano melody to fizz between uneven glitches and provide an ample bed for legendary Norwegian vocalist Maja S. K. Ratkje's unmistakable cries.

On 'Perfect Matrimony' meanwhile, Piotr reworks the first song he ever penned as a solo artist, recorded in 2007 straight to GarageBand. Fleshed out with production quirks from Fennesz (!) and Reuben Walton, it's Piotr's most intimate reveal, his voice cracking longingly over harsh digital textures. If you're wondering where the remnants of his last records have ended up, there are nods to Medieval Europe with the short recorder and brass interludes 'Nobilis Humilis' and 'S'on Me Regarde', and Piotr collapses the worlds together on 'I Bowed', using Oliver Alary's Ensemble patch to reframe an Appalachian folk torch song.

Our favorite moment though comes when Piotr bashes heads with Ican Harem, who slurs through a voice-changer on 'East Tennessee', rapping over serpentine, aluminium-brushed beats.