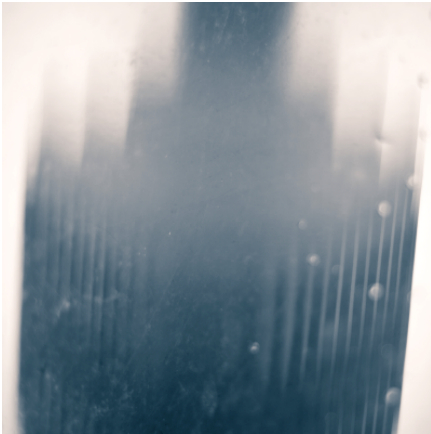


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Derek Piotr – AGORA 8.1



AGORA is an intense experience. Listening to it I quickly felt back at home with my favorite records. Bits of Editions Mego, Mille Plateaux, Raster Noton and other similarly-minded labels came to mind while going through these eleven tracks. Voices permeate every crevice of the sound: whether it is in a more tangible way (like on “Focus”) or in a dissolved then re-assembled way (like on “Overtaker”). Don’t worry though, everything moves very quickly. This isn’t some ambient recording; it’s a living, breathing, moving album that refuses to sit still.

Beats and rhythms do exist on here. It isn’t that difficult. Rhythm remains constant for “Remain” one of the more immediately accessible songs on here. “Belief” reminds me strongly of Pita’s first effort “Seven Tons For Free”. The structure of the piece appears to employ a similar glitching technique, though the vocal component gives it a unique sound. Only on a few tracks are the vocals decipherable (I use that word sparingly). For the track “Behavior State” Derek steps back for a moment and tries to let us comprehend exactly what he’s literally saying. Consider this song a ‘moment of clarity’ for the recording as a whole.

Even at its most abstract you can feel the human input. There’s simply too much left to chance on this album. I tried finding a point when things settle down, I couldn’t find it. You basically need to surrender yourself to the album’s own peculiar logic. While it may not make sense on the first or even third listen, it’ll captivate you with its own sonic universe.

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