

In self-producing and self-releasing "Raj," a 32-minute affair that features drifting distortions, cut up vocals, and coiling electronic beats, Derek Piotr has assured the listener that every uncompromising musical inclination will be duly investigated. Fittingly, one of the most impressive assets of "Raj" is its air of unpredictability, as if any moment a song could convulse into an eruption of noise or cut away to silent stillness. It is to Piotr's compositional credit that he does each extreme equally well, delving into the dread of a Nine Inch Nails instrumental on "Graves" and exploring calm and chiming serenity at the onset of "Hutan" with the same vigor. Piotr has released several albums over the past few years, but his vision is distilled and compacted impressively on "Raj." – Ryan Potts, Experimedia