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Rum Music

Experimental Sounds From Poland: A Rum Music Special The Quietus , October 16th, 2013 09:08

Rory Gibb, Luke Turner and John Doran round up some of the Quietus' favourite Polish experimental records of the year so far, from grinding tectonic plates and noise-blasted techno to jazzy sample collage and creeping dread. Part II to follow soon...

Derek Piotr - *Raj*

(self-released)

Derek Piotr is a young Polish born sound artist who now lives in New England in the States. He may well be an accomplished electro-acoustic musician who focuses primarily on vocal manipulation, has interned under Meredith Monk, has been nominated for the by the jury for Prix Ars Electronica in Digital Musics, but this doesn't actually stop his third solo record from being, well... *banging*. In times gone by this record - his third solo album - would have been lumped under the catch-all title IDM (although, it should be pointed out that in times gone by no-one was making records exactly like this). He manipulates vocal inputs masterfully using techniques that are reminiscent of those used by Holly Herndon, Amon Tobin (on the recent *ISAM* album), Bjork, prime Prefuse 73 and Katie Gately. Elsewhere he gleefully ignores the high and low art divide while mixing and matching a berserk number of styles when it comes to programming. Where else would you find something that feels as comfortable referencing percussive effects that sound like Coil, RP Boo, Tackhead, Gold Panda, Autechre, Mouse On Mars, Revolting Cocks and, perhaps unavoidably, Burial? Experimental electronic 'dance' music is very rarely this simultaneously exciting, unpredictable and enjoyable. *John Doran*