

# christian renou ex-voto

Ex-Voto - a votive offering to a saint or divinity.

'I see words'

With 'ex-voto', Christian Renou has forsaken his analogue machines to encourage a fresh approach via digital technology. As Renou states in his liner notes - he cannot escape narrative structures in his music - his sounds are so evocative of soundtracks without an actual film - encouraging the listener to conjure their own accompanying images.

Yes, it is incredibly melodic, hauntingly so, though at times this is broken by shards of noise and implacable clicks. Midway through 'ex-voto', alien beats provide a base for further evocative outpourings of human vs. machine visions. The introduction of strings brings an elegiac quality to the composition.

Renou, when creating this narrative, did not deny the ghosts of history in the name of progress...

The disintegration and contamination of a guitar motif appears alongside chopped rhythms and often indistinguishable words. These distant, half-remembered voices babble incoherent noise which battle against the sweet, sweet cracked melodies which pitter-patter and dance around your head.

An underlying, delicate metallic whirring plays against a near indecipherable reverie, before the initial guitar melody rears its head for a final time.

Layer upon layer of hubble, bubble, toil, but no trouble, ensures this body of work to be Renou's masterpiece [Frans de Waard / Vital claimed that this more melodic route was something that he'd like to hear more of, whereas Barry G. Nichols / Whiteline blog / Spekk recording artist, extolled the virtues of Renou's 'genius' with this recording].

'I see death'

The cd is packaged in the usual high standard expected of elsieandjack - spot varnish and silver ink over beautiful photography and simple layout, printed on thick cardstock - plus Renou's liner notes printed on a vellum overlay.

Remember, there is a hand-numbered edition of 100 with laser-etched jewelcases only available direct from Christian Renou and elsieandjack.



usa  
po box 230316 | grand rapids | michigan | 49523 | 616.706.8616  
james@elsieandjack.com

uk  
12 queen terrace | seaton carew | hartlepool | ts25 1be  
phil@elsieandjack.com

interviews with all  
elsie and jack artists  
can be arranged

|||

please send reviews to  
reviews@elsieandjack.com  
thanks!  
phil and james



christian renou  
ex-voto  
ej016

october 2007