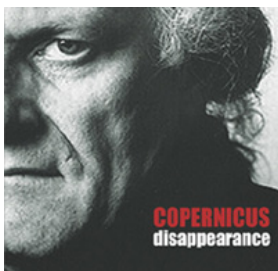


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Copernicus
Disappearance

Since the creation of an alter ego in the form of Copernicus, performer-poet Joseph Smalkowsk has gained a cult following which allowed him to tour Europe, America, and Russia. *Disappearance* was conceived during a daylong recording session in Hoboken, New Jersey where he gathered together an ensemble of improvising musicians in creating an album focused upon existential immersion.

The result is rather frightening at first, like slipping into a demented lecture or abstract interpretation of scientific fact or philosophy. Speaking of cult followings, the first track "12 Subatomic Particles" sounds like a cult leader's diatribe, warning of supposed dangerous phenomena and its dire consequences. Copernicus's voice is loud and stern which contrasts against almost peaceful organ chords and whispered vocalizations.

Copernicus continues his conceptual quandaries through "The Quark Gluon Plasma" and "The Blind Zombies" as he stands on his philosophical pulpit, drawing out the tale of the universe in such ominous tones that forewarning is quickly catalyzed to directed fear with wailing sounds. An interesting addition of a playful violin during the last half of "The Blind Zombies" is rather sarcastic in its depiction of ignorance with complementary piano notes.

"Humanity Created the Illusion of Itself" is a bright spot musically, considering the other tracks on *Disappearance* with soft saxophone and percussion beats. "Atomic New Orleans" on the other hand has a definite blues feel to it with soulful saxophone and electric guitar notes. The album caps off with "Revolution!!" which rises to a sprawling battle of yells and crashing guitar effects and claps.

While at times thought provoking, Copernicus tests the listener's patience with his lengthy discourse ("Revolution!!" for example runs for almost 21 minutes) about neutrons or subatomic particles. His voice is passionate and imposing, yet the content of the album begins to drag with its dreary perspective and constant repetitions about the existence of life and its building blocks. While the album is for the select few, it may be hard for Copernicus to find a new audience with *Disappearance*.

★★

Rukshan Thenuwara – MuzikReviews.com Staff

October 25, 2009

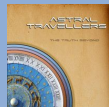
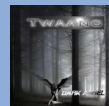
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Tracks

1. 12 Subatomic Particles
2. The Quark Gluon Plasma
3. The Blind Zombies
4. Humanity Created the Illusion of Itself
5. Atomic New Orleans
6. Poor Homo Sapiens
7. Revolution!!

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