

Radian „rec.extern“

Radian is Martin Brandlmayr (Drums, Vibraphone, Computer), Stefan Németh (Synthesizers, Computer) and John Norman (Bass). The Viennese trio has been playing together for about a half-dozen years at such diverse locales as Tonic (NY) to Ars Electronica Festival (Austria) to All Tomorrow's Parties (UK). "Jet" has the type of feedback the Jimi Hendrix's mother cursed over. The overall sensibility here has impact and full stereo sound, every channel is filled, or at least tampered with. Full-on drone subtly paints the edges of the bassline and vibes making their way from the distance in "Kilvo". Here we see the labelmate comparison to Tortoise (with whom they have played live), just toned down and tossed a tad. Radian has formerly recorded for the well respected Mego empire, playing alongside Pita in their very first year live and being captured by Rhiz Records at the time. The chattering "Bioadapter" makes its way into the microsound scene though makes room for some aberrant bass and signal play. Where 100s of records have accosted our senses with feedback wrath and fury – this time it seems sensible when balanced with faint, almost kodo-like drumming. Experimentation is in high gear for these three young men who blur genre lines seamlessly and with intention. "Elot" evidences the bands mono recording techniques as it begs release from its Dadaist fly attitude towards traditional music making. Released in August, „rec.extern“ is superbly mixed by John McEntire (Stereolab, Trans Am) dubbing this a nearly perfect recording on all four wheels! The only imperfection here is the short 40 minute discount, made up for in sense of purpose, it begs a companion disk (or maybe that should be a diskette – nudge!).

(TJ Norris, HYPERLINK <http://www.tjnorris.net> www.tjnorris.net, 2002)