

BLACK EGG - MELENCOLIA

Melencolia is Black Egg's new album. The **Ushersan's** dark electronic project (**Ex-Norma Loy, Die Puppe, DZ Lectric & Anthon Shield**) is here supported by the voice of **Corina Nenuphar (Ghost Actor and Vile Oblique)**. Since the cover, the famous engraving made between 1513 and 1514 by the German artist **Albrecht Dürer: Melencolia I** inspired the album. In the vision of Black Egg, as in the original conception of Dürer, melancholy is not only a mood or a mind disorder: it's a particular gaze on the existence, a kind of contemplation that always puts into play an extreme lucidity and a depth of vision. It's an alchemical process of transformation, which has the task of transforming the black bile into something else.

The work was mainly composed and recorded between 2013 and 2014 and now it's published by the Berlin-based label Aufnahme+Wiedergabe.

Anticipated by *In The Black Sun*, a video produced by **Maria Silva**, a Spanish video artist resident in Berlin, the LP gives a good result after the 2013 Black Egg's debut: *Legacy From A Cold World*. The new album has a more dry, minimalist and intimate soul than the last. Between the first and second LP, the fame of the act grown thanks to the 12" *The 'Ohne Hände' Remixes*, made with the valid reinterpretations of the industrial techno artist **Ancient Methods**.

Songs of the new work such as *In The Black Sun* and *Egg Mantra*, arise in the wake of the original *The 'Ohne Hände'*, but slowing the beat and realizing a personal sound, dark and evocative, especially when the male and female voices are intertwined (*Sterilize*). The use of different languages such as English, German and French, increases the charm of the work; in particular in *In The Black Sun*. There are also raids in more synth melodic territories with tracks like *Neon Man* and *King*, in which the use of old analog synthesizers and drum machines evoke a certain coldwave spirit, and there are almost industrial / angstop episodes (*Nation*). Moreover, the album was mastered by **Friedemann Kootz**, who has worked with artists such as **Haus Arafna, November Növelet** and **Herz Jühning**. Black Egg's LP is perceived, at times, with a certain Galakthorrö-sound, but much more melodic and suffused, like **November Növelet's** mood. An excellent cover of *Le Petit Chevalier* closes the album. It's a **Nico's** song appeared on *Desertshore* LP. The song is sang by Ushersan's daughter, whose childlike voice refers to cinematic suggestions of seventies soundtrack horror movie.

Surely this is a good job, but not immediate; it deserves careful listening to reveal its delicate nuances. *Melencolia* is a cathartic album that could be a good medicine for the soul. Of course, even with this album, the Aufnahme+Wiedergabe label has proven itself to be one of the most valuable, interesting and attentive dark electronic labels.

Score: 8

Label: Aufnahme+Wiedergabe

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<http://fluxproject.altervista.org/black-egg-melencolia>