

KRIISTAL ANN – CULTURAL BLEEDING

Whoever follows our webzine should have read our review of the last album **Anacrusis** from the Greek minimal duo **Paradox Obscur** formed by **Toxic Razor** and **Kriistal Ann**; maybe not everyone knows that the singer has been active for years, starting from 2007 after studies in classical terms of music, with the *darkwave* band **Resistance of Independent Music** and having created in 2013 her own project that we are going to review, which already has a discography of two albums (**Refraction** and **Delirious Sky**), an *EP* called **For the sake of thee** and some singles.

She returns with the third episode **Cultural Bleeding** for the Brazilian label **Wave Records**, characterized by a *cold wave* sound just like the previous works (the European *cold wave*, not the American *industrial metal!*), a sound that since some years has regained the attention of the followers of dark music; so we have an ethereal sound based on *synths* and her voice, between existential melancholy and electronic landscapes that touch with an epic and regal style the emotive side of the listeners.

Essential mist shows us the way starting from the title, evoking with its submissive electronic pulsations and its ethereal sounds, a minimal mist which is soon enriched by epic melodies and a charming singing; we have some evocative pauses with delicate keys and winding *synths*, just as melodic lines in the vocal refrain.

Killing jokes is based on minimalism with its dry drum machine and its nightly sounds, where the singer finds her place with her grandiose vocals in a growing controlled path where the repetition of the music is the perfect substrate for the minimal variations that steer the song; some cosmic elements find their place giving full image to the musical picture which is based on well played suggestions, and after the third minute they increase their speed with a charming triumph of sounds.

Fail of misery is a collaboration with the Italian band **Schonwald**, based on a retro structure with grooving *synths* and well played agitations with post punk effected riffs; it's impossible not to notice the use of charming keys linked to ghostly lines. A conjunction of elements that works and that opens up a window to a certain kind of dark music linked to a past time; the use of more rhythmic bits very close to the dancefloor gives us a welcomed variety that assures the identity of the song.

Enigma approaches us with a musical vortex that soon opens up to strong rhythms and regal sounds, where Kriistal Ann intervenes with her *gothic* vocals; as soon as the song advances, its speed increases, but it retains its melancholic and *medieval* atmosphere with looped arches. A very Teutonic episode near to a certain kind of *darkwave* where ethereal sounds and classic instruments are not forgotten; new weapons for her arsenal, and she knows how to navigate in the sea of the dark sound.

Αντιγόνη starts with a well played game of structured rhythms and dance-lines, meanwhile our singer sings in her own tongue giving us a dark dancefloor-minded song with a minimal touch; we find here a certain kind of mystic and charming atmosphere that dominates the scene with its noble movement and its mantra enriched by organ keys, which develop the sacral nature of the sound.

An album with a well developed sound structure, based on a melancholic and ethereal atmosphere that is always present, which is the substrate for minimal rhythms and evoking synth lines; everything is accompanied by the voice of the singer, an element that is often the protagonist, developing melodic structures with charming refrains, never out of context in the leaden and atavistic atmosphere that is the base for the structure of the album. She shows us a sense for music far from any upstart-like tendency, knowing how to play the elements without ever going too far from the general picture and without copying herself; in a market full of episodes with style but no substance, this is a nice thing, so we feel like to recommend this work to both old and new fans alike.

Score: 8,5

Label: Wave Records

Author: Davide Pappalardo

Website: <http://fluxproject.altervista.org/kriistal-ann-cultural-bleeding>