



DENSELAND Code & Melody

Label

ARBITRARY

Format

CD

Catalog Number

ARBITRARY 020CD

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Release Date

04/26/24

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - D - ELECTRONIC

DESCRIPTION

Just because **Denseland** take inspiration from the past, doesn't mean they're stuck in it. On their first album since 2017, their second for Arbitrary, the Berlin-based trio instead ventures slowly but steadily into unknown territory. **Hanno Leichtmann** and **Hannes Strobl**'s dub-infused, bass-heavy rhythmic minimalism in combination with lyricist **David Moss**'s sonorous yet deadpan delivery opens up a space that feels both claustrophobic and infinitely wide. Like previous Denseland albums, *Code & Melody* picks up on the sparse side of dub-enamoured post-punk, no wave, post-rock, adventurous electronic and improvised acoustic music and blends this with a vocal performance marked by a **Lou Reed** cool, a confrontationalism à la **Lydia Lunch** and, occasionally, an experimentalism akin to **Scott Walker**. The result is as unique and ambiguous as the record's title: Musical formal rigor enters into a dialogue with poetic reflections on the beautiful mess that is the human experience. The record's starting point were multiple improvisational sessions between Leichtmann and Strobl. Strobl used his electric bass and electric double bass, whose characteristic sounds "were expanded through the use of special playing techniques in combination with live electronics," as he explains. After adding overdubs to some of the recordings as well as guest contributions on three pieces by **Katharina Bévand** on modular synthesizer, the resulting tracks served as the perfect backdrop for Moss's performance. The sounds that accompany them on *Codes & Melody* complement that seamlessly: This is both physical and cerebral music, rigid and flexible, obsessed with the dialectic of repetition and difference – with moving forward.

TRACKLISTING

01. Between The Click And The Hush (5:05)
02. Hot Stove Consciousness (4:13)
03. Going Up The Going Down (4:53)
04. Serotonin Seeker (4:51)
05. Four Humans And A Rope (4:04)
06. Sample The World (4:15)
07. Harder Than Gravity (4:19)
08. Beyond Decision (3:30)

HIGHLIGHTS

- On **Denseland**'s first album since 2017, their second for Arbitrary, the Berlin-based trio instead ventures slowly but steadily into unknown territory.
- Like previous Denseland albums, *Code & Melody* picks up on the sparse side of dub-enamoured post-punk, no wave, post-rock, adventurous electronic and improvised acoustic music.
- RIYL: **Lou Reed**, **Lydia Lunch**, **Scott Walker**.

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