



ANDREW PEKLER Tristes Tropiques

Label
FAITICHE

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LP

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FAITICHE 014LP

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Territory
NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre
FILE UNDER - P - ELECTRONIC

faitiche

DESCRIPTION

Faitiche welcomes back **Andrew Pekler**, the musical director of the 2011 album *Sonne = Blackbox* (FAITICHE 005CD) featuring **Ursula Bogner**. Andrew Pekler's *Tristes Tropiques* is an album of synthetic exotica, pseudo-ethnographic music and unreal field recordings. **Jan Jelinek** interviews Andrew Pekler about *Tristes Tropiques*:

JJ: You've titled your album *Tristes Tropiques* - a reference to **Claude Lévi-Strauss's** famous account of his travels among native peoples in the Mato Grosso. If I remember correctly, the book can be read in two ways: as an ethnographic study of indigenous Brazilian tribes, and as a critique of anthropological methods. What exactly about *Tristes Tropiques* inspired you? The melancholy travelogue, or the formation of a new, critical school of thought?

AP: Both. Lévi-Strauss's constant reflection on the purpose of his work and the often melancholy tone of his writing constitute an internal tension which runs throughout the whole book. *Tristes Tropiques* is many things; autobiography, traveler's tale, ethnographic report, philosophical treatise, colonial history. But ultimately, it's the author's attempt to synthesize meaning from fragments of his own and other cultures that resonated most strongly with me - and led me to a new perspective on how I hear and make music.

JJ: Listening to *Tristes Tropiques* I noticed a certain oscillation between references, which is what I really like about it. Obviously, your music alludes to the beloved fairytale kitsch of exotica, but it also repeatedly shifts to a mode of ethno-poetic meditation music that seems to have no beginning or end. Where do you yourself locate the tracks gathered here?

AP: As a listener and as a musician, exotica music of the 1950s and '60s has always been a constant reference point and inspiration. And perhaps my listening has been "ruined" by exotica, but as I have dug deeper into ethnographic archives of "traditional" music, I've come to the realization that all recordings that evoke, allude to, or ostensibly document other musical forms have a similar effect on my imagination: I am most intrigued when I perceive some coincidentally familiar element within the foreign (a tuned percussion recital from Malawi that immediately brings to mind **Steve Reichian** minimalism, or the Burundian female vocal duet that sounds uncannily like a cut-up tape experiment, etc.). I suppose this album is an attempt to recreate the same kind of listening experience as what I've described, just with the electronic means that I have at hand.

TRACKLISTING

01. Feedback TT (3:00)
02. Mirror Structures (2:22)
03. Humidity Index / Khao Sok (Chopped And Screwed) (5:47)
04. Cool Symmetries / Ascending Vortices (3:31)
05. Bororo (3:18)
06. A Savage Topography (3:46)
07. Mirror Structures (Mirrored) (3:28)
08. Theme From Tristes Tropiques / Avian Modulations / Life In The Canopy (10:47)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Andrew Pekler's *Tristes Tropiques* is an album of synthetic exotica, pseudo-ethnographic music and unreal field recordings.
- *Tristes Tropiques*, a reference to **Claude Lévi-Strauss's** ethnography of the same name, is inspired by Lévi-Strauss's "attempt to synthesize meaning from fragments of his own and other cultures."
- Pekler's music alludes to the "fairytale kitsch of exotica", but it also shifts to "ethno-poetic meditation music". Pekler states, "I've come to the realization that all recordings that evoke, allude to, or ostensibly document other musical forms have a similar effect on my imagination: I am most intrigued when I perceive some coincidentally familiar element within the foreign."
- Includes download code.

Official web site: <http://andrewpekler.blogspot.de/>

Also available:

(MUSCUT 004LP) PEKLER, ANDREW: *Cue* LP [8713748984670]
(STAUB 062CD) PEKLER, ANDREW: *Strings + Feedback* CD [801670026624]
(STAUB 062LP) PEKLER, ANDREW: *Strings + Feedback* LP [801670026617]

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