



merzbow

timehunter. 4x3" cd boxset. ant-zen act146

tracklist: 1.1 warhorse, 2.1 space trackin, 2.2 ramatam, 3.1 conga, 3.2 stone the crow, 4 cd hunter.

masami akita returns from the fringe of mass distribution with a real gem for ant-zen. fresh from his collaboration with russell haswell, satanstornado, for warp records, akita a.k.a. merzbow embarks on a project designed to keep busy people organized. time hunter, a set of four 3-inch cds filled with new concepts in digital noise textures, comes bound in a handsome black "day planner" binder, complete with a calendar and various bits of information useful to those on the go.

akita notes that time hunter originally began as an exercise working in the dynamics of 2002's merzbeat, perhaps the most accessible and rhythmically structured album in the massive merzbow catalog. "time hunter features deconstructed beats which i took from 70s hard rockstuff like omega, golden earring, spontaneous combustion, alamo," he explains. "also i tried mixing these destructed breakbeats with heavy guitar drone."

but you'd never know it from the wailing noise of "warhorse," the first thing on the time hunter schedule. "warhorse" is the fierce terrorism of merzbow's new digital sound, where seismic bass explosions provide the foundation for metal sound streams that quiver in a cloud of static hum. as "warhorse" tramples forward through its twenty-minute duration, the harrowing scream of multiple clipped sirens gives way to a charge of chaotic feedback before a finale of undulating guitar errata. like war itself, "warhorse" possesses no reason to its cacophonous rhyme. it simply marches on.

after the onslaught of "warhorse" comes a respite in the form of "space trackin" and "ramatam" on the second cd. relatively speaking of course. "space trackin" transmutes "warhorse"'s thunderous bass into a loping rhythm while celestial radio data glances across its surface. "ramatam" filters the radio sound into a smooth hiss that dominates the sound stage, so much so that a rolling umm-tiss rock beat almost sneaks by in the background.

for the third cd, merzbow borrows a page from merzbeat and muslimgauze, cranking out a positively danceable jungle noise jam on "conga," adorning an unrelenting tribal rhythm with glitching accoutrements. "stone the crow" rounds out the experience with a crushing set of cymbal crashes fed through countless effects and filters. one can almost smell the brutality, the carnal rage encapsulated in this riveting track. closing out time hunter on the fourth cd is the invasive "cd hunter," which is a reinterpretation of "ab hunter" from merzbow's appearance on fat cat records' acclaimed split series. "cd hunter" bristles with the energy of barely-controlled digital and guitar noise, where sound artifacts begrudgingly conform to merzbow's scathing beat patterns, which themselves seem locked into a time sequence that goes against their fractured sonic signature. a time sequence that, if it weren't marked on the calendar by merzbow, would wander off into unproductive endeavors.

and that makes time hunter the ultimate in noise scheduling! ant-zen will release merzbow's time hunter as a set of four 3-inch cds housed in a special day planner binder in may 2k3.

merzbow on the internet: <http://www.oppositerecords.com/artists/merzbow.html>

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