

Motorpsycho + Jaga Jazzist Horns □ – In The Fishtank (2003)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 17 January 2020 16:47 -

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1 *Bombay Brassière* 5:57 2 *Pills, Powders And Passion Plays* 7:05 3 *Doffen Ah Um* 4:57
4 *Theme De Yoyo* 7:28 5 *Tristano* 20:53 Bass, Guitar, Piano [Prepared], Synthesizer
[Solina String Ensemble], Percussion, Vocals – Bent Sæther Drums, Percussion – Håkon
Gebhardt Flute, Tenor Saxophone, Clarinet, Marimba, Percussion, Vocals – Jørgen Munkeby
Grand Piano, Clavinet [Clavinette], Synthesizer [Nord Electro], Vocals – Baard Slagsvold Guitar
[Guitars], Bass – Hans Magnus Ryan Tenor Saxophone, Bass Clarinet, Marimba, Vibraphone,
Percussion, Vocals – Lars Horntveth Trumpet, Marimba, Percussion, Vocals – Mathias Eick

You could argue that with Konkurrent's In the Fishtank series, getting a great record is beside the point. The ten Fishtank albums released so far-- featuring bands like June of 44, Low + Dirty Three, Tortoise + The Ex, and Willard Grant Conspiracy + Telefunk-- all follow the same template: the label grabs bands that are touring through Holland, sticks them in a studio for a couple of days (most don't even rehearse) and persuades them to cut records that are more experimental, offbeat and, critically, more casual than they would ever make in their normal studio time. Although strict jazz and improv artists toss out live records and unrehearsed meet-ups as a matter of course-- Some Guys That Showed Up at the Velvet Lounge, Vol. 3 or what have you-- it's rarer for avant-rock, post-rock and jazz-informed bands to just scribble out an album and release it: LPs are events, and even EPs are policy statements.

It's telling that even with bands as adventurous as Norway's Motorpsycho and Jaga Jazzist, it's hard to imagine any of their albums coming out as loose or random as this thrown-together EP. Jaga Jazzist-- represented here by their horn section-- is the jazz/fusion/techno nonet known for their densely pancaked instrumentals and gymnastic arrangements. Motorpsycho is a long-running psych-rock band, extremely popular in their home country, whose work jumps from classic rock jams and pastoral acoustics to hypercatchy psychedelia. (Their latest record, *It's a Love Cult*, serves as a great introduction.)

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The Jaga Jazzist horns have tagged along on a few Motorpsycho tours and done session work on their records, but In the Fishtank is their first real two-way collaboration. On the Mingus-referencing "Doffen Ah Um", a typically knotty Jazzist instrumental rubs against Motorpsycho's rock drums and grungy rhythm guitar; the soft psych-folk song "Pills, Powders and Passion Play" gets an extended instrumental break, highlighted by Mathias Eick's muted trumpet. ---Chris Dalen, pitchfork.com

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