

LUMBERTON TRADING COMPANY LUMB007 CD

FORMICATION 'ICONS FOR A NEW RELIGION'

The Dark Art of Electronica



artist: Formication

title: 'Icons for a New Religion'

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'Icons for a New Religion' is the astonishing new album from this often spaceward bound UK electronica duo of Alec Bowman and Kingsley Ravenscroft and represents their first non-self released work.

Mulched digital flotsam, chattering rhythms, buried voices, squelched beats, vapour trails and suchlike combine to create a vast and sprawling, kaleidoscopic filmic spew that's unstoppable in its reaching out to those parts of yr imagination simply waiting to be taken to new places.

At times, the music recalls early Tangerine Dream or even Pete Namlook's darker descents taking a trip to those realms usually reserved for Autechre via the ritualistic and chemical saturation of Coil, but these boys have been honing their craft long enough to bleed so many exciting and interesting shapes into it that it has become ultimately their own.

Previous releases by Formication include 5 professionally duplicated Cdr albums on their own Harmful Records ['Decomposed', 'Crossing the Sea by Radio', 'Pieces for a Condemned Piano', 'Redux' and the recent 'The Untitled Wasdale Recordings...' limited edition box set] and 2005's downloadable 'Proserpina'. They have also played live a number of times during the past two years, including as support to Plaid and an appearance at Nottingham's Loom Electronica Festival in 2006 alongside Isan and Digital Mystikz.

Formication Discography

- 'The Untitled Wasdale Recordings'
- 'Redux'
- 'Pieces for a Condemned Piano'
- 'Proserpina'
- 'Crossing the Sea by Radio'
- 'Decomposed'

'Icons for a New Religion' is packaged in a jewel box CD case with an 8 page full colour booklet.

Included in the booklet is original art, text and lyrics from the recording.

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Here's what others have said about previous releases:

'Although undoubtedly derived from the correct technical term for attempting sexual congress with an ant, you have to admit that sonic occultists Alec Bowman & Kingsley Ravenscroft have chosen a superb name for themselves. Their latest project, available as a download or part of a limited edition box set, documents three days of secret recordings made in a remote location in the Lake District. Best appreciated as one long alchemical rite rather than individual performances, their work commences with the opening up of a piano's internal mechanics and concludes in an endless reverberation caught in the act of constantly renewing itself - a wellspring of ritual sound.' **(The Wire)**

'The Untitled Wasdale Recordings is the arresting product of improvised sessions recorded over three days by Nottingham duo Alec Bowman and Kingsley Ravenscroft (self-professed 'miraculous electrical ensemble' Formication) in

the heart of the Lake District in North Western England. Though sectioned into twelve tracks, the 70-minute work feels like a single, meandering nocturnal ritual that's simultaneously ancient and new, primitive and modern. The groaning cry of a wooden flute invokes long-dead spirits in "Ancient Stones Unlock" while dense masses of percussive clatter and animal chatter dominate "The Mountain Lullaby." Radiant chords punctuate the dense forestation, imbuing the knotty foliage with a warm tint of as looping waves of sound mimic flocks of cawing birds. At certain stages of the trip, Formication plunges deep into the Wasdale wilderness: locomotive clatter intensifies into an indistinguishable blur during "Into Water and Out Of Mind" and backwards acoustic guitar slivers slither through murky swamplands in "Night in the Sanctuary of Yew." An arm wrestling match of sorts appears to be enacted between stuttering acoustic and electronic sounds in "Sound Reflected by Magnetic Scree" while alien life-forms engage in

glossolalic communion in "Screaming from the Lake." While the sonic alchemists' music is clearly experimental and electronic, it's at least partially generated from an acoustic pool that includes acoustic guitar, piano, djembe, and drums, a fact that helps explain the music's inviting character despite its idiosyncratic nature. A spirit of loneliness and melancholy humanizes the material too, as when ghostly chords alternate above the alien, even industrial terrain of "I Have Thoughts That Are Fed By The Sun" and "As Breath Rushes By." Naturally, Formication's predilection for altered states may remind some listeners of Coil but, even if it does, the association hardly diminishes The Untitled Wasdale Recordings' psychotropic character.' (Textura)

For more information or photos, please contact Richo at Lumberton Trading Company.