

ALOA INPUT

Devil's Diamond Memory Collection

album release: May 14, 2021

Label: Siluh Records

Format: LP / LP (pinkvinyl) / CD / Digital



Artwork by Daniel Schüssler
Design by Maximillian Stephan
Label: Siluh Records (LC15356)

Tracklist

- 1 Desert Something
- 2 The Other Rainbow
- 3 How Mellow the Sun
- 4 Transmissions I
- 5 Make It Rain
- 6 Transmissions II
- 7 The Conscious Stone
- 8 Atlas Daze
- 9 Beta Mourning Journal
- 10 Down to Dust
- 11 Devil's Diamond Memory Collection
- 12 Universe Keeps Places

*Recorded at Import Export, Atelier für Medienkunst, In Our House
Studio Munich, Goethe-Institute Mexico City, Skybarn Studio
Montreal and Mercy's Basement from 2016 to 2020.*

Produced and mixed by Cico Beck
Mastered by Sam Irl

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The third album from the band made up of Angela Aux, Marcus Grassl and Cico Beck (The Notwist, Joasihno), a concept album entitled “Devil’s Diamond Memory Collection”, will be released on Siluh Records in May.

Five years have already passed since Aloa Input’s last release, an unusually long period for the previously prolific band. Angela Aux, Marcus Grassl and Cico Beck spent the intervening years producing endless streams of demo material in sessions in studios, cinemas and basements in Mexico City, Montreal and Munich. At the end of it all 14 songs emerged which together comprise the first concept album in the band’s 8 year long history. The subject? The felt eternity.

Everything started on their last tour, while driving in their van asking themselves “what would you do if you were the last person on the planet?” Over the course of several months the band took to asking their audience this question. Every answer left a trail of associations and existential questions behind it: How would you react? Would you get lost in silence, scream, or secretly enjoy it? Where would you live? Who would you miss? How long could you take it? And, perhaps most importantly, would you remain the same person? It was through this process of reflecting on what place humankind accords itself on the planet that “Devil’s Diamond Memory Collection” emerged: A surreal flip-book that combines the unthinkable with the possible, the mysterious with the well-understood.

Each of the 14 tracks is told from a different perspective at an uncertain time. It’s “a retrospective on the shreds of our civilization” explains Angela Aux, who wanders on similar philosophical paths with his solo project. “We wanted to write an album that we would listen to in 20 years and think “yeah that’s how the future sounded to us back then”.”

But how can you transfer imaginings of the future, which only exist in the mind, to the inner ear? How will mankind sound after re-inventing its way to live? Aloa Input have found the perfect tone on “Devil’s Diamond Memory Collection”, somewhere between alienated and everyday life. Like looking through a micro-kaleido-telescope: The storytelling breaks here and there in flurries, colorful parallel worlds co-existing peacefully side by side.

Right from the prelude to “Desert Something” our minds meet once again in the cloud. “Lift us away from all linear mind” requests the dream-lost voice, while the bass and snow-shoveled beat propel us forward. In the calm and hypnotic “Atlas Daze” the narrator is the proxy for a species, finding itself in the last few steps of its journey: “I feel the skies are coming down/I see the world is gonna drown”. The species is our own, finding the last enemy to defeat in itself, but still whistling, carefree, along its way. The title track, on the other hand, is about how we’ve developed science to the point where we find ourselves irrelevant: “Now we occupy the space to let the physics rule it all” Aux raps over grumpy voice-samples that sound like goats haunting a vocoder. The book title “Do Androids Dream Of Electric Sheep?” by sci-fi-author Philip K. Dick comes to mind. The sheeps’ lullaby may well have sounded just like the 6 and a half minute track.

There is no traditional happy ending on “Devil’s Diamond Memory Collection”. In “The Universe Keeps Places”, the soulful closer of the album, a computer voice takes over and buzzes to the beat “Flee, dust, fall, god, pause, pause, pause, pause, pause”, until everything gets lost in drifting frequencies. The album is influenced by luminary post-humanists like Donna Haraway, but also Ted Talks on the topics of AI and biotechnology, all the while remaining hopeful: “Mankind will find a new place, as long it manages to survive.”

We are already confronted with fundamental questions through the rapid development of science. What will be special to mankind if an intelligence based on neuronal linked algorithms can far outstrip the capacities of our own minds? We remain certain that a machine will never be able to create something soulful like music, since its consciousness is missing, but no one believed that AI could ever be a better chess player or provide better medical diagnoses than humans. Isn’t music merely a sequence of mathematical patterns?

The tracks on “Devil’s Diamond Memory Collection” appear soulful and mathematical at the same time. The nano-focused beatstructures - programmed by Cico Beck (also in the Notwist) and Marcus Grassl - meet smooth flowing melody-waves that wondrously complete each other. Every song is a hidden picture puzzle of polyrhythmic jack o’lanterns that stick in your mind, like colorful glowing mushrooms on an old moon rocket or a sea breeze that mysteriously got lost in a vacuum.

Despite the futuristic topic, the tracks can't be classified by time: "Devil's Diamond Memory Collection" could have been released in 1967, 1999, 2007 or 2022. Call it weird folk, pocket psychedelica, krautpop or no-age. It's music that holds an organic warmth and a sense of security in spite of all its acoustic alienations, all its effects and filters.

Rustling spacesuits and silk pajamas hang side by side. Even the synth-strings don't sound like a cold soundtrack to Blade Runner next to homey flutes. Some tracks almost verge on a Western movie mood: high noon at the end of days, as if androids with an acoustic guitar were gathered around a bon fire to sing a farewell to humankind floating on the horizon to its last sunset. And isn't that exactly what we are? Lethargic astronauts drifting towards darkness on their spaceship called earth and only thinking about the wonder of our existence in this endless universe while staying in positive inspired moments?

"Devil's Diamond Memory Collection" is a soundtrack for a science fiction-scenario that doesn't come in an advanced utopia or a bombastic doomsday picture book, but as an incidental awareness that we have already arrived in our future.

ALOA INPUT are



Angela Aux, Marcus Grassl & Cico Beck