



SCHNEIDER KACIREK

SHADOWS DOCUMENTS

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Tracklisting:

- 1 Doubles (4:52)
- 2 Hand An Wand (4:15)
- 3 To Microphone (4:27)
- 4 Birds, Bell and Sticks (2:31)
- 5 Low Rhythm (5:09)
- 6 Electro Electronics (5:45)
- 7 Talwerk (4:33)
- 8 We Will Need Each Other (2:37)
- 9 Spiegelmotiv (6:12)

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Kenia meets Krautronics

Stefan Schneider and Sven Kacirek bring African rhythms into dark electronica

Under the auspices of the Goethe Institute and Unesco, Stefan Schneider and Sven Kacirek have spent a fair amount of time in Kenya in recent years. As they travelled the country, they recorded rare, traditional music in different locations, subsequently releasing two albums of unembellished field recordings to document their findings.

“Shadows Documents” takes a different approach: Schneider and Kacirek graft their acoustically gleaned impressions of Kenya onto pure electronic templates (with analogue accents). Field recordings as such cannot be heard. A central role is played by the repetitive, hypnotic element which is so integral to tribal music with its complex rhythms. Both musicians share a fascination with these very rhythms, a recurring theme in their careers to date: clearly audible in Stefan Schneider’s work with Kreidler and To Rococo Rot, as well as on his albums with Hans-Joachim Roedelius. In Kacirek’s case we can look to his solo albums for evidence, in particular on the much lauded “Kenya Sessions”.

The duo’s modus operandi differs from that of renowned Krautrock pairings such as Dieter Moebius/Mani Neumeier or Michael Rother/Klaus Dinger (= NEU!), where the drum kit plays a dominant role as the driving force. With Schneider and Kacirek, drums mutate into a sort of synthesizer instrument, almost subliminally melting into the sound of other instruments as a virtual observer, adding a certain nuance here and there, rather than performing a more catalytic function. Played with greater restraint, the drums create variations, translating physique into precision. Synthesizers, meanwhile, assume many of the percussive duties.

A prominent guest musician joins the duo on one track. Niklas Addo Nettey, a Berlin resident since the early 80s, played with Fela Kuti 70.

About the musicians:

Stefan Schneider (bass and electronics) is a founder member of KREIDLER and TO ROCOCO ROT. He has worked with such diverse musicians as Hans-Joachim Roedelius (Cluster), Klaus Dinger (Kraftwerk, NEU!), Hans-Joachim Irmeler (Faust), Arto Lindsay, Bill Wells, Hauschka, The Pastels, St. Etienne and Alexander Balanescu.

Sven Kacirek (drums and percussion) has released three solo albums thus far, including the highly praised “Kenya Sessions” in 2011. He has collaborated with Marc Ribot, Nils Frahm, Hauschka and F. S. Blumm.