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BEYOND SENSORY EXPERIENCE

KORRELATIONS
OLD EUROPA CAFE CD

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Korrelations presents interpretations by fellow travellers of Beyond Sensory Experience's 2004 trilogy (*Tortuna*, *Urmula* and *Ratan*), as well as alternative takes by the Swedish Dark Ambient duo themselves. The image projected by practitioners of this sort of music can appear fairly ridiculous to outsiders. However, BSE's appropriation of surgical and military diagrams, which they subsequently label with mysterious Latin references, raises them a cut above the generic norm.

"The Two-Trace Problem" interpreted by Alexx compacts a sonic cross-section of furnace roar into roiling, sedimentary movement. Doshakal's version of "Urmula" is ushered in by pitchshifted wraiths that billow languorously over sonorous gutter soundings. Later, the impressive thud of the felt-muffled piledriver that impels "Inside Erasmus's Bed" forward may prompt nervous glances at the door. *Korrelations* ends on a high note with Alko's deliciously noisy "11.28.9.11.9", which applies a buzzsaw to the listener's cranium and takes an impressive nine minutes to cut through the cerebral cortex and cerebellum before finally severing the spinal cord.

With the notable exception of "Inside Erasmus's Bed", the occasional beats are the weakest element of the proceedings, the lowering atmospheres and resonant samples the strongest. Something about the music's gloom is strangely comforting – perhaps it's the knowledge that immersion in it need only be temporary. The duo's homepage is girded by an ad banner whose links lead to a Swedish lifestyle magazine, replete with the usual pictures of Hollywood stars, royalty and so on. The proximity of such banality to their hermetic references to the science of myth, medieval illustrations and apocalyptic messages is strangely appropriate.

Whether the contrast is deliberate or the result of impecuniousness is open to question, but their juxtaposition emphasises the potential remedial power of Beyond Sensory Experience's work.