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BEYOND SENSORY EXPERIENCE

RATAN

CAFE OLD EUROPA OE064 CD

BY MARTIN LONGLEY

From Uppsala, Sweden, Jonas Aneheim (Drakhon) and Tobias Koolmeister (K Meizter) formed Beyond Sensory Experience in 2001, their aim being the amalgamation of music and science. *Ratan* concludes a trilogy begun by *Tortuna* and *Urmula*. Its packaging evokes a simultaneous aura of old and new experimentation, micro-circuit boards vying with images of chunkily antiquated laboratory equipment. Drakhon and Meizter adopt a conventional linear vocabulary when approaching what is essentially Ambient music. Fortunately, this doesn't detract from the effectiveness of their brooding atmospherics. They use modified samples, guitars, synths and voices, even as they do their best to disguise original sonic sources.

The first two pieces are constructed with churchy chorus and organ swathes, heading into the eternal distance, all Gothic textures, fusty robes, monumental drones and whispering and spitting voices. Its ghostly, ethereal greyness suggests the spiritual mixed in with the Industrial. "Inside Erasmus's Head" has a dripping, stalactite coldness, its low rumblings opening up a cavernous acoustic. The swooping spatial "Future Directions" is still elaborating on the established aura. Nothing much changes over the next five tracks, with BSE singlemindedly capitalising on their chosen mood, though stormy weather rolls in on "Numbers Rule The Universe". BSE keep very much within established traditions, but their morose streak has a convincing potency.