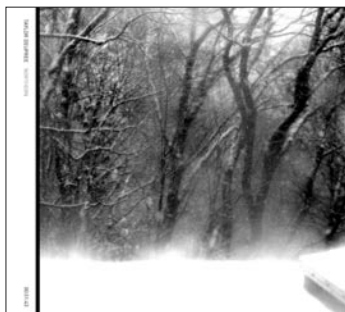


PRESS RELEASE

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TAYLOR DEUPREE | NORTHERN

12K1037 | CD | EDITION_2000 | APRIL 2006

The inspiration behind *Northern* (including its music, title and photography) comes from Deupree's recent relocation from the heart of urban activity in Brooklyn to the tranquility of the forest in upstate New York. Inspired by nature and the winter during which it was created, *Northern*, like much of his recent work, explores Deupree's interest in stillness and a slowed sense of time. Through quiet textures, subtle movements, faint loops and echoes, it was his goal to create the type of music that comes naturally to him while also highlighting the input from his dramatic new surroundings.

In contrast to the brazen repetition found on *Stil.*, *Northern* more ephemeral approach to Deupree's theme comes from looking at the stillness found outside of his studio windows: large, looming boulders, the softness of snow, and the hushed whisper of wind and fallen leaves; it is a world of countless tiny movements so active that an implied stillness results from the din it creates.

Deupree's earthbound ideas in the album are rooted in his choice of sounds and studio practices. His now-signature Kyma manipulations are still prominent, but they have been applied to improvised electric piano, melodica, guitar, and field recordings using techniques picked up from his experimental/pop collaboration with Eisi (*Every Still Day*, Noble Records, Japan, 2005). A careful balance is kept through the layering of synthetic source tones of basic waveforms and long, drawn-out, fragile swells. *Northern* is melodic, warm and introspective, forming a bed of sound that is simultaneously quiet and noisy, structured and unsettled, looping and chaotic.

Deupree has dedicated *Northern* to his closest friend of his teenage years, Bryan Charles Striniste, with whom he first started experimenting in electronic music over 20 years ago. Deupree's relocation to a nearby area much like the one where he grew up spurred memories of those days of early musical playfulness. Thus, *Northern* became highly personal and nostalgic while at the same time breaking into new territory for Deupree, echoing the changes in his personal life.

Northern is the first solo CD from Taylor Deupree since 2004's *January* (Spekk, Japan), and the first on 12k since the seminal *Stil.* (12k, 2002).

PRAISE FOR JANUARY

[GAZ-ETA, PL]

As ambient music has turned on itself, Taylor Deupree goes into another direction, to deliver a record that is both minimal and as it enthralling. The originator of the 12K record label, Deupree ponders the world of silence and minimal movement. What do I mean by minimal movement? There is such stillness on "January", that it is not recommended one breath for the fear of missing a sound here. Chilling, pure and crystalline, the pieces flow like clouds in the sky. Everything develops [or mostly, doesn't develop] slowly. Like an unhurried turtle, "January" flows in and out of our ears without any rush, without any urgency. To call this perfect bedtime music, would probably be an insult. So, I'll just call this great reading music. But don't mistake it for background music. This is not something to be listened to while doing other chores. You must point your ears at your speakers and give right in. While the record in itself is experimental [you're sitting there and wonder how it is that Deupree produced those sounds], it will not scare away anyone who doesn't like the experimental genre. "January" is chilling, beautiful and restful music for those seeking an adventure in nothingness.

PRAISE FOR STIL.

[ALL MUSIC GUIDE, US]

Stil. has one weakness: It's too short. There are four tracks on here that are equally intriguing separated from one another or listened to in their entirety. But these compositions were designed to unfold over a long duration of time, too long to be documented on any sort of media. Stil. focuses on the variations found in changes to minute sound loops layered one on top of another, and the results are breathtaking. Warm sinewaves that aren't glitched up to levels of pretentiousness are abundant, giving the notion of activity to what could possibly be deemed frozen and static. And Stil. can be deceptive if close listening isn't employed -- the results are so subtle that it can lead to a notion that it's nothing but a bunch of stagnant drones carelessly looped together. But nothing could be further from the truth, as it's easily Deupree's finest, most beautifully executed release to date.