



Amiira - Curious Objects
Klaus Gesing, Björn Meyer, Samuel Rohrer

Klaus Gesing bass clarinet, soprano sax, effects

Björn Meyer electric bass, effects

Samuel Rohrer drums, electronics, mod.synths

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The trio Amiira of Klaus Gesing, Björn Meyer and Samuel Rohrer has returned after a layoff of six years since their debut LP. It would be unwise to expect for them to pick up exactly where they left off, given all the turbulent change that the world has encountered since this time, and indeed the new Album *Curious Objects* reflects a clear expansion of the players' abilities. The fundamentals that guided the debut album – spatiality, refined coolness, the non-verbal “narrative” quality - are still very much present, but are this time reinforced with an even more pronounced feeling of communicating across wide physical and conceptual spaces.

A fine example of *Amiira's* overall aesthetic comes from *Concentric*, where an initially subdued, arpeggiated horn sequence furtively sneaks around the other instruments as if attempting not to awaken them, every so often mischievously gaining in presence and volume. The shape-shifting sequence is then picked up by the bass, the restlessness and insistence of which eventually reaches a boiling point that ‘activates’ the other instruments and causes everything to gel into a cohesive whole.

Elsewhere, a more richly contemplative approach is a recurring thread throughout the program, and this can be heard on tracks like *Nostalgia*, *Now That We Finally Met*, and *On Second Thought*. Within this suite of songs, intentional silences or reflective pauses are extremely effective in developing the immersive, non-static, sentient feel of this music. The last of these tracks, in particular, takes place in a virtual space large enough to accommodate a number of different imaginative interpretations. Bass, horn and cymbal phrasings here feel like distinct “objects” floating in that groundless space, and completely different resonances will arise depending on which of these free-floating objects the listener concentrates on. The likeminded *Where We Go From Here* grounds these proceedings with remarkably fluid horn soloing, the cymbal flashes and bass notes adding bright but transitory flashes of luminescence.

The trio is skilled enough to then pull off a technical and emotional transition to a piece like *Dare To Dance*, where gentle percussive tremors add a slight air of trepidation and a feel of cautious, deliberate wandering. As these elements join in with the other bass and horn voicings, a slowly

undulating and arid landscape unfolds – something on the scale of desert or tundra, but with a much greater feel of something uncertain lurking on its edges.

Average musicians would be more than content with successfully synthesizing all of the elements above, but Amiira is still not finished: the trio even takes a foray into dub-inflected jazz on *Gravity Inn*, maybe the album's liveliest testimony to their skills in blurring the perceptual or conceptual boundaries between composed and improvised music. The smoky, intimate atmosphere of this musical quest builds up with an almost imperceptible momentum; the interlocking drum and bass parts sneaking so subtly to the forefront of attention that it seems they were there the whole time.

Altogether, *Curious Objects* is a potent antidote for spiritual and musical fatigue; especially recommended for those who have already left behind the limitations posed by genres. It is more than the sum of its parts, and its crossing of numerous different boundaries never feels like the goal in and of itself: instead, all this activity feels like a tool for unlocking and decoding even more supposedly irreconcilable qualities and ideas.

Track listing:

A1 Garden Of Silence A2 Dare To Dance A3 On Second Thought A4 Ways Of Paradox
A5 Now That We Finally Met - B6 Refraction B7 Concentric B8 Nostalgia
B9 Gravity Inn B10 Where We Go From Here — Total playing time: 47:55

Music created by Amiira (Klaus Gesing/Björn Meyer/Samuel Rohrer) except *Garden Of Silence* written by Asita Hamidi and *On Second Thought* written by Klaus Gesing

Recorded by Gérard de Haro in August 2021 at Studio La Buissonne, Pernes Les Fontaines, France
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Produced by Amiira
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D&DDA Ian Anderson, The Designers Republic

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