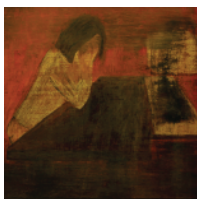


Japanese for  
Beginners  
(2011 / n5MD)

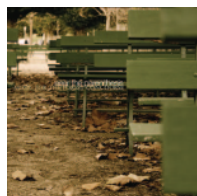


"Japanese for Beginners" is Near The Parenthesis' 4th album via the n5MD imprint and 5th overall. Not far behind on the contemplative artfulness of 2010's "Music For the Forest Concourse" this new album finds Tim Arndt adding more texturally experimental treatments to his signature mix of melodic IDM and Modern Classical. Arndt was intent on creating a decidedly more "electronic" backdrop for the record, which includes what may be some of the most creative drum programming of his career. Building on this new platform, Japanese for Beginners continues Arndt's bias and skill in constructing haunting piano motifs and, as always, brings the pieces together seamlessly. The songs on "Japanese For Beginners" are as hopeful, as dreamy, and as thoughtfully crafted as you want them to be. With this album as with any of Arndt's releases, it is up to the listener to dive in to the details or simply let it play as the soundtrack to your day.



Near The Parenthesis is the anonym that Tim Arndt, a San Francisco-based electronic musician, utilizes for his warm electronic creations. While playing such conventional instruments as piano and guitar in several bands throughout the years, Arndt has continually been grounded in electronic and experimental music. After disbanding the Urban Needle project featuring Steve Mehlman (Pere Ubu) and Mark Gamiere (The Wake), he decided to go it alone and focus on full instrumental compositions.

Music For  
The Forest  
Concourse  
(2010 / n5MD)



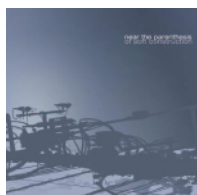
In 2006, Arndt released "Go Out and See" on the Canadian boutique imprint Music Made By People. Go Out and See is a soulful album which feels both vaporous and heavy hearted without being sappy or academic, winning enthusiastic reviews from the likes of XLR8R, The Wire, and Textura. A follow-up EP titled "Be Still" on Japan's Duotone records, featured 5 more of Arndt's emotional ebb and flow compositions in limited release. In the summer of 2006, after n5MD label head Mike Cadoo found a demo CD that he had misplaced from Arndt years earlier, Near The Parenthesis was "reunited" with n5MD, which has been Arndt's home since.

L'Eixample  
(2008 / n5MD)



"Of Soft Construction" was the first album in the new Near The Parenthesis/n5MD partnership. The album found Arndt displaying a passion, eclecticism and cohesion only previously hinted at in his work. "Tranquil", "haunting", "delicate" and "airy" were just a few of the many adjectives used by the press to describe "Of Soft Construction".

Of Soft  
Construction  
(2007 / n5MD)



Shortly after a trip to Spain, Arndt set out to complete his first concept release "L'Eixample". Released in 2008, the album was inspired the modernist architecture of the L'Eixample district of Barcelona. "L'Eixample" became the first step in a series of albums that introduced an increasing amount of piano composition in Arndt's works and has been perceived to be his most hypnotic, almost religious, by way of its multi-layered tapestries of sound.

GO Out and See  
(2006 / MMBP)



In 2009, Arndt took a short break from Near the Parenthesis to produce an EP in collaboration with n5MD alumni Arc Lab which was released on Hidden Shoal Records. The two worked under the name "Down Review" and provided Arndt an outlet for decidedly beat-heavier productions as his works under Near the Parenthesis continued to drift to slower tempos. Exemplified in 2010's "Music for the Forest Concourse", Arndt was back as Near the Parenthesis and produced a highly-thematic album which was to become, in his view, the least "electronic" in his catalog. The work was created for the specific experience of listening outside, specifically at dusk, and was imagined as a collection that could actually be played with a four-piece ensemble of conventional instruments.

Less than a year later, Arndt completed his next album "Japanese for Beginners". Arndt was intent on creating something decidedly less organic, which includes what may be some of the most creative drum programming of his career. Building on this new platform, Japanese for Beginners continues Arndt's bias and skill in constructing haunting piano motifs and, as always, brings the pieces together seamlessly.

Near The Parenthesis' music is gentle and restrained, yet deeply layered with a heavy emphasis on evolution and, most of all, emotion.

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