

BAUM - MEER

Hendrike Scharmann

The record 'Meer' is marked by diversity and contrasts. This is expressed in the piece 'Meer', meaning 'more' in Dutch and equally carries the album title. The word has a double meaning referring on the one hand to the restless gluttony and greed to which society is often exposed, proclaiming infinity. On the other hand, the word signifies 'a lake' which is defined as a body of water enclosed by land on all sides, which indicates a border and reveals the calm, gentle waves of a lake.

These contradictions manifest themselves throughout the album in subjects such as city versus nature, dream versus reality, isolation versus harmony, creating a harmonious, organic soundscape.

TRACK BY TRACK

1 *

Floating on the waves of a lake, the opening track "Meer" embodies a restrained mood. The entrance of Maya Angelou's words continues a sense of vulnerability and uncertainty.

Remembrance

*Your hands easy
weight, teasing the bees
hived in my hair, your smile at the
slope of my cheek. On the
occasion, you press
above me, glowing, spouting
readiness, mystery rapes
my reason*

*When you have withdrawn
your self and the magic, when
only the smell of your
love lingers between
my breasts, then, only
then, can I greedily consume
your presence.*

Maya Angelou

2 *

'C'est le printemps' plays around with the discrepancy between the darkness brought by low synthesizers and improvised violin contrasting with the lightness of an improvised song sung by her eight-year-old violin student indicating lyrics about the joyous arrival of spring.

3 *

Rising

4 *

In "Under best of circumstances," Scharmann reaches for the depths of the lake with dark, powerful lyrics by May Swenson that can conjure up images of the underwater world at the bottom of the ocean.

5 *

In the song "Life's a joke" Scharmann refers to the phenomenon that people are only pawns on a board game being heavily influenced by coincidences in our environment. At the same time, she tries to encourage an optimistic view of the world where one is reminded to regularly zoom out sensing the absurdity of certain situations.

Life's a joke

*Don't forget that life's a joke
Don't forget that life's a game
The dices will decide whether you
Have to turn to left or right*

*Pawns on a board game
You're just the same
Don't you dare think you're so special*

*Pavements made for walking
A fridge to store my food
Café's made for talking
What's my current mood?
I guess I should be happy
But still I'm feeling blue
Maybe I do need a shrink
But then you need one too*

*Pawns on a board game
You're just the same
Don't you dare think you're so special*

*Roads are made for driving
A car to move along
A plane is made for flying
I don't want to go on my own
A picture so I won't forget
The food's so good
But I didn't taste it yet*

(Refrain)

*Inventing jobs to keep us busy
Taking pills that make us ill
Inventing sport to keep us moving
A moving stairs to keep us still
Inventing machines to connect
But are we connected, still?
Are we connected?*

*Is it easier? Is it better?
Is it safer? Do you think?*

(Refrain)

In Scharmann's own lyrics "into the unknown" the indomitable waves are used metaphorically for her own being. A constant confrontation with change, the intangible and fear of the unknown create a struggle to keep her head above water.

Into the unknown

*Into the unknown
I cannot see
That I am part of "the"*

*Caressing the waves
I could not tame
The habit is still the same*

*Waves, waves
Sound waves
Broken
Out in the open*

*Into the unknown
I cannot see
That I am part of "the"*

*No words come out
And almost drowned
I'm looking to be found*

*Stones, stones
Heavy stones
Thrown
I don't own*

*Into the unknown
I cannot see
That I am part of "the"*

*I'm looking up and gasp for air
My body being unaware*

*Sand, sand
Filthy sand
Dazzling my eyes that make me weep*

*Into the unknown
I can now see
That I am part of "the"*

*Unravelling the layers
My skin reveals
The surface is calm and the water is clear*

*Waves, waves
Sound waves
Broken
Out in the open*

7 *

Dark things

In "Dark Things," confusion is created with at first a seemingly simple beat joined by unconventional melodies and spoken word.

Dark things (Novica Tadic)

*Dark things open my eyes,
Raise my hand, knot my fingers.*

*They are close and far away,
Beyond nine hills
In a hidden refuge.*

*Night is their kingdom,
And this day, just breaking,
Is their cloak of light.*

*No force can cancel them,
Untangle them, explain them.*

*They stay where they are,
In our chests, murmuring in our hearts.*

8 *

It's just a dream

Scharmman implements her own voice and oriental violin melodies, combined with field recordings from Algerian musicians evoking the vagueness of a dream experienced when waking up in the morning.

*Love gets wasted
nothing's going on
love gets wasted
Let's sing another song*

*but when it's gone
everything goes wrong
but when it's gone
There's nowhere to belong*

*love gets wasted
nothing's going on
love gets wasted
You'd be wondering what is taking so long*

*but when it's gone
everything goes wrong
but when it's gone
There's nowhere to belong*

9*

Could it be

*Don't try to fight
Love's not at the other side*

*All is movement
Movement is all*

Love comes and goes

Can we build it up again

No noise will be heard

*There's too much noise
Too much*

Soundcloud album link

https://soundcloud.com/hendrike/sets/baum-meer/s-kkm3RvuPgiP?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing