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Sienna: 'A Pure Land'



Just how Buddhist are club beats? Kyoto-bred, European-based freestyler Sienná attempts to answer this question in ten tracks.

Audio samples, unsurprisingly, abound. Woven into the 22nd-century fabric are talks of made-up characters and orders to 'stop dreaming' on album opener 'Metaphoric', with a (slightly creepy) Italian man's chat rounding off the sensually hypnotic 'From The Distance Of Memories'. In fact, this whole album feels like undergoing therapy with ECT – one half expects to wake up loving *Big Brother*. There are similarly neat flourishes on display peppered throughout the album, perhaps most striking on 'Dance Of The White Rhythms', in which nu-jazz meets a chanting priest.

For the most part, however, this is a rather repetitive, one-trick record. How many twinkling mobile phone bleeps do we need to realise why Sienná was featured by Philips Electronics? The samey format of ambient synth + audio samples + dance beats wears so thin that it's a shock to hear their creator occasionally singing. Yes, the East-meets-West theme is interesting, and it's all very smooth and polished, but 'A Pure Land' doesn't really raise any eyebrows with its technique. It's nothing we haven't already heard on electronics ads for the past few years.

Released on 24th November 2008 by Abon Records.

Written by Polis Loizou.



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