

Jack of None – Who's Listening to Van Gogh's Ear?

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Jack of None "Who's Listening to Van Gogh's Ear" offers a plethora of sounds and styles woven into a vast tapestry. Serving as the heart and soul of the album is Maxine Syjuco's clever lyricism, which taps into a dreamy surreal sort of poetry. The entire album feels reminiscent of Mr. Bungle's work, as the songs are filled with power alongside circus-like twists and turns. Completely unpredictable Jack of None create their own unique sonic universe, one that remains deeply compelling. By imbuing each of these songs with a mixture of the mysterious and malicious, the pieces play off of each other creating otherworldly eerie imagery.

"Hotel Carcass" introduces the album with an elegant, jazz-like flair. Maxine Syjuco's deadpan delivery is perfect as the song grows ever larger and more chaotic around her, with her serving as the calm center. Great dollops of noise and distortion offer great chaos on "Pater, Ignosce Mihi". Industrial edged in nature is the creepy sound of "On the Streets" with the whispers offering a sense of impending doom. A rare glimpse at a gentler world comes into view on "Fire Song" where Jack of None comes close to approximating Slint's sense of dynamics. Pure gleeful abandon punctuates the high energy work of "The Witherling". Experimental to its very core is the churn of "Nocturnes in Dorian" which utilizes glitch techniques to great effect. Bringing the album to a close is the dark work of "Poem for the Invisible".

"Who's Listening to Van Gogh's Ear?" is an odd fascinating combination of poetry, art, and rock into a satisfying whole.

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