



AIMA | Haiku Irregolari in Forma di Musica

Review by Tom Plovie
for “Peek-a-Boo”

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With a title like "Haiku Irregolari In Forma di Musica" you can be stimulated as art lovers only. And this particularly beautiful jewel, perfectly elaborated concept, even rewarded. The title makes sense. The Japanese haiku poetry is the hinge. The musical work is integrated by a publication of an illustrated book with watercolors (made by a scale of cold tones) realized by the artist Diego Cinquegrana. This piece of art is delivered released in a limited edition of 100 copies and in a sealed envelope, which makes the opening already exciting! That attention to detail: I love it.

For poetry appeared, and I count myself while - but more about that later, perhaps briefly outline what a haiku. Haiku is a poem of three lines, the first line five, seven the second and the third line has five syllables again. Content it expresses a moment of experience and can be linked to or inspired by zen. Wikipedia then defines it "as a thimble full of emotion, with little room for dissections and approximate descriptions". I had not thought back several weeks that a work of an Italian singer would have brought me closer to poetry. As a reviewer to have a direct contact with an artist is a nice surplus in exploring a new work or as a general introduction tout court. A fellow reviewer gave me an incentive to start the contact and so it happened.

First a brief explanation of who AIMA is. She was born in Varese (Italy) in 1977 and is a professional photographer. An eye for beauty and aesthetics is not strange to her. She graduated in Characters of European Cinema specializing in Scandinavian films at Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna. An overview of her publications can be found on its website, as its portfolio as a photographer, with a focus on black and white photography. She takes a little place in the international poetry ambit too. Since 1999 she actively participates in the Festival of Contemporary Poetry "Altramarea" organized by Angelo Tonelli, a poet and a big name in Italy as a translator of Greek classical literature. Oh yes, there is even the music! She is the founder of the band "Les Jumeaux Discordants" and it maintains several collaborations with other musicians, which they sometimes named 'Aimaproject'. In addition, she also runs a communications agency. I was going to keep it short, but with AIMA's talent is not easy.

Back to the delicate touch with the artist herself. In one of our chats I confessed her to be a layman in terms of poetry. It is an art form that I find difficult to bond with. That haiku are little gems, still gave me courage to see them thoroughly and record. "They are born to give birth to multiple and personal interpretations. Immerse yourself in the overall picture, and find in that one image what brings yourself into raptures." A first class poetry by Messenger, but a great step to capture this work. And so we ended up at the core of this concept album: the poems. Aima gave me some explanation, I share one on these with you - with permission. Translated from Italian into English is: "Light the Swan/agonny drags, Upon the Water". It was the track 'Agony', put to music by Gerhard Hallstatt (Allerseelen). Inspiration for this poem came when AIMA was watching a swan on the lake during the night. "It was an intricate period", she says. The specific and repetitive way the swan gliding through the water, reinforced her some anguish. The Swan drags light (or agony?) upon the water, the swan is white and it's light, but the wake upon the dark water is a feeling of agony

The "darkness" symbolizes that feeling of agony and anguish. The repetitive and restless music enhances the atmosphere of this.

But let's first go on, to say that for this project, (like for her previous album "Di AIMA il Segno"), AIMA has assisted again by various guest musicians. A notable difference from its predecessor is that on "Haiku" the vocals part is less noticeable. The subtle soundscapes form the main part of the music, but that immediately print an appropriate stamp on the abstraction that poetry brings. To name a few by name: Wutanes Heer, INsCissorS, Daimatland, Vinz Aquarian, Marco Milanesio, Miel Noir, Arthur Geoffrey, Nico Guerrero, Northgate: mostly strangers to me, but this just a nice way to get to know them. Just on "Invocazione a Sparta" she leaves the haiku form following an impressive declamation that aims to create a parallelism between the Peloponnesian War (the legendary battle between Athens and Sparta) and a new form of necessary "War" against all this "Emptologism" (a neologism to say the contemporary current with a void of ideologies). The Greek INsCissorS let the drums and rousing sound simultaneously restrained. Add to all this, the evocative presentation of AIMA's afferent call bloody battle ("The time has come. Time to wage war, O Spartan souls!") And number ensures unadulterated goosebumps moments. Epic! There's even a quotation from Heinrich Heine's poem 'Meergruß' that makes the track a real highlight. It made me think of the way Diamanda Galas impressive "Orders from the Dead".

I make a personal link with the Greek tragedies when I listened to "Le ore silenziose" ("The silent hours), an haiku again. The short and repetitive melody and the monotone bass bring me back to a special experience: attending 'Mount Olympus' 24-hour performance of Jan Fabre in 2015. The Day Taeldeman music escorted there several dream sequences (silent hours'), and with this track from Vinz Aquarian I see those images again and again. The 'personal picture that takes you into ecstasy "I managed to summarize here so immediately. The title track of the album, a collaboration with Daimatland and Annamaria Bernadette Cristian on cello, has been released on "Di AIMA il Segno" /Show Me Your Wounds Prod.). It is also the longest track with more than 8 minutes. The ambience setting complements the poetic approach: musing and meditative. The interplay between the vocals and cello is so harmonious that it hangs an almost spiritual aura. After listening to this album I am also entered a different world, which AIMA had personally wished me on the cover of her book: "May this little piece of Art bring you in other worlds." Mission accomplished.

Tom Plovie, 08/03/2019