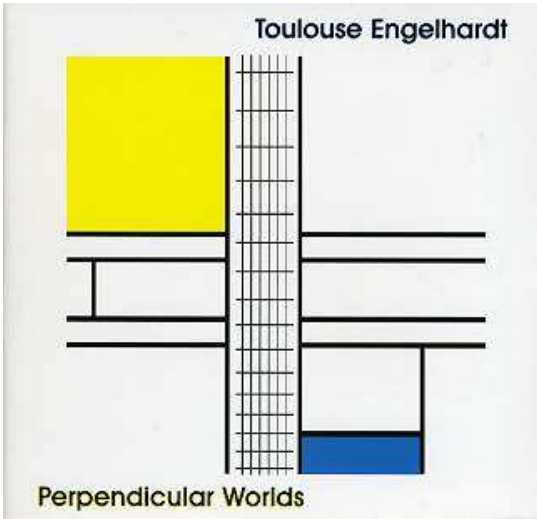




FAME Review: Toulouse Engelhardt - Perpendicular Worlds



Perpendicular Worlds

Toulouse Engelhardt

Lost Grove Records - LG1006

Available from [Amazon.com](#).

A review written for the Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange
by **Mark S. Tucker**
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Before Michael Hedges, before the CandyRat label, there was Toulouse Engelhardt, still one of the best-kept secrets of the guitar pickers' world, a wunderkind respected by players everywhere on planet Earth though little known to the general public beyond a fiercely loyal small cult.

The promo lit accompanying this release is just a tad off, crediting the 1975 Takoma release of *Toullusions* as Engelhardt's debut. Actually, as far as can be determined, the independent Sierra Briar Records first issued it that same year, from which Takoma was enlightened, reprinting the gem. I yet have my Sierra copy and clearly remember running into the Takoma slab only after picking the other up. Nonetheless, Engelhardt was the last member of the original legendary Takoma Seven and hasn't lost a centimeter of his edge since, through the years touring with the Byrds, Jack Bruce, Ry Cooder, Dick Dale, Kenny Rankin, Adrian Blelew, Todd Rundgren, and John Stewart among many others, even sharing stages twice with Zubin Mehta & the L.A. Philharmonic.

The fingerpicker's style and modes are as eclectic as ever they've been, soaked variously in lush slow themes, complex interlocking lines, abstract conjugations, and sometimes absolutely insane angular asides sounding as though crafted by a berserk computer with an alien aesthetic otherwise unknown to the denizens of the green planet. The Mondrian-ish cover to *Perpendicular Worlds* is not sufficient warning as to how strange this guy can get. For that, you'd need to collide Mondrian, Ernst, Giger, Griffin, and Dali to approximate the ambiance. Listen to his version of Hendrix's *Third Stone from the Sun* and tell me I'm wrong. But that's only the beginning, adeptly counterpoised by stunningly hypnotic trad playing is a welter of seemingly impossible outbursts peppered pell mell throughout this unique release...only the third he's emitted in over 30 years...and one never knows what to expect next: flord classicality or extreme post-modern pulsars. Leo Kottke has only very rarely had true competition, but Toulouse Engelhardt has ever been at the top of that list.

Track List:

INNER SPACE

- Xel-ha (Where the Waters are Born)
- Let the River Answer
- Deep River
- Toullusions of Anji (Davey Graham)
- Convergence: The Blindwatchmaker / In Christ There is no East or West

DEUX ARBES - TWO TREES

- Threnody for Sequoia Sempervirens
- Shui-hsa-pa (Place of the Water Pine)

OUTER SPACE

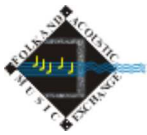
- Blue Star (Victor Young)
- Albert's Gyroscope
- Third Stone from the Sun (Jimi Hendrix)
- Lost in the Luminiferous Ether
- Exceder la Velocite de la Luminiere (Exceeding the Velocity of Light)
- Epilogue: Melting Stars, Breathing Heavens

All songs written by Toulouse Engelhardt except as noted.

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