

Artrosis - In Nomine Noctis [Metal Mind]

Metal from Poland mainly falls into two categories—thundering death metal and female-fronted gothic metal. Artrosis has been one of the country's top exports in the latter since 1995. *In Nomine Noctis* is a reissue of the English version of the band's second album, 1998's *W Imi? Nocy*, which means "in the name of the night." The transliteration is mostly smooth, though at times the lyrical phrasing feels a little "off." Medeah's vocals, though, are definitely "on," hitting high registers and low menace with equal authority. The straightforward goth metal here is somewhat removed from the electronic experiments of later albums. While the genre's conventions are all present—melodic riffs, big keyboards, stately tempos—hooks abound everywhere. The production is a little raw, but that works in the album's favor. In avoiding the overproduction typical in goth metal today, the songs retain atmosphere. An eerie pad here, a delicate piano there—this album manages to breathe in its corset.

[Listen]

[Cosmo Lee]

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