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record reviews

yahowa 13

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Domination and Servitude
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LA TERRE TREMBLE!!!

Trompe L'oeil
(Whosbrain)

I H8 CAMERA

Volume 1
(Jesus Factory)

HARPOON

Double Gnarly / Triple
Suicide
(Interloper)

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Whore of Babylon, Beast of
Rome
(Genet)

MAEGASHIRA

The Stark Arctic
(Spare Change)

MORE REVIEWS



YAHOWA 13

Sonic Portations
(Prophase)



Don't feel guilt if you don't know about this cult. Chances are that if you are like me, you weren't even around when they sending out some free loving (via their Source restaurant) to other Los Angeles dwellers and it wasn't only after past your 20's that you started to get the psychedelic.

Formed in 1969 and fronted by Father Yod (who died in a hang gliding accident in 1975), Yahowa 13 released a string of improvisational psychedelic albums back in the day only to slow down after Yod's passing. Interest in this ever morphing project was revived a few months ago with Tee Pee Records' reissues of 1974's *Penetration; An Aquarian Symphony*. Now to my surprise, from the same house that brought us the fantastic Plastic Crimewave Sound, comes Yahowa's first studio recording in thirty years.

Sonic Portations is just what the shaman prescribed. This is a pretty good record of free flowing jams. The music is mainly driven by tribal beating drums that roll and surge about while always maintaining certain laid back vibes. There aren't any freak outs per se and like most improvisational records there are moments where the music seems to struggle to find a route. But take those moments as part of the journey and you'll be fine.

The string work is not very melodic and doesn't go for the easy strum. Instead it's quite reflective and at times paused. It responds to the drums and vibrates alongside some tenuous bass playing. The album is also simple and is not embellished by myriad of instruments. Its brevity (the whole thing wraps before the 40 minute mark) is also a plus. These last two factors denote their lack of pretension, a big plus if you ask me. *Sonic Portations* may not be the best the Yahowa 13 ever came up with, but is a fluent return to form. After all, 30 years is enough to rust the juiciest of frictions.

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