

Owls - „Wendolins Monocle“

The area of the mesocosm, which we can directly perceive, lies in the midst of the microcosm and the macrocosm – the realms of the tiny and the huge. It decides on our perspectives on things. But let's imagine we could overcome these boundaries and step into the spaces that surround us. Would our world be any different? Would we find the familiar again?

The Austrian jazz piano trio Owls pursues these questions and highlights the small in the large and the large in the small. This process is made audible on „Wendolins Monocle“ (Intersections, 2022), their second album, which is all about perspective. A story between fiction and reality, between music and literature, between science and philosophy, between acoustics and electronics.

Their 10-track album tells the story of a young man who dares to cross the boundaries of observational spaces. The view through a monocle makes time stand still and gives him the ability to immerse himself in the world of the micro and the macro.

Collaborating with the Viennese director, actor and author Klaus Haberl, the filmmaker Barry Horváth, the Austrian trumpet player Herbert Walser-Breuß and the Cologne-based vocalist Veronika Morscher, each piece is a musical tracing of the protagonist's gaze. Compositional images such as „Waltz of the Dancing Peacock Feather“, „The Storm“, „The Fisherman and his Soul“ (based on the fairy tale of the same name by Oscar Wilde) and „Knowledge leans against the rear walls of its objects“ (to a poem from- and recited by Klaus Haberl) are created.

With „Wendolins Monocle“ Owls are once again taking a path that proves their unbroken connection to sound aesthetics. Well versed in the idioms of European jazz, the trio celebrates a cinematic and spacious sound that invites you to follow the sophisticated melodic phrasing and rich harmonies while listening to the sound images. They really let their pieces become experiences and create their own musical language, one of captivating, timeless tonal diversity. Having self-produced this work, the trio makes extensive use of modern production techniques, such as electro-acoustic sound processing, muted piano, looping and effects as well as the sampling of sounds from nature, transporting the otherwise traditional trio format into a contemporary textural experience.

Owls are

Simon Oberleitner, piano & electroacoustics

David Ambrosch, upright bass

Konstantin Kräutler-Horváth, drums & sampling

<https://www.houroftheowl.com>