

Brainwashed - Triac, "In a Room", "Days"

Written by Creag Dunton

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Triac formed in 2011 although did not release their first recorded material, *In a Room* until just last year. The Italian trio featuring former Tu M' member Rossano Polidoro (laptop) Marco Seracini (piano and synthesizers) and Augusto Tatone (bass) create glacial, yet gripping minimalist music in the spirit of Polidoro's previous project. Both that and their follow-up record *Days*

have a similar, consistent sound, although growth and development can already be heard from one album into the next.

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There is a certain classical sensibility to the four pieces that make up *In a Room*, mostly in the form of lush, repeating motifs. Individual instruments are rarely obvious, rather things blend into a misty miasma of veiled melodies and synth noises. The opening "Part I" is the most airy moment here: gentle space looms, punctuated with some occasional swells of low frequency sound (possibly Tatone's bass guitar?) to pepper the loop-heavy sound. There is a cyclic structure that is very apparent, but never does it feel repetitive and via synth strings and pulses, the last half especially shows marked evolution.

"Part II" begins with the trio hinting at a sound that will appear further on in the album, as well as characterize the subsequent *Days* more heavily. The opening minutes are more forceful and heavy tone-wise, although the heaviness eventually subsides and becomes a lighter piece of drone. There is a mass of shifting melodies to be heard, but compared to the first piece it is more basic from a compositional standpoint. In general that darker sensibility appears more in earnest on "Part III", immediately from the rumbling dark ambient opening. Compared to what preceded it, there is a bleaker and gloomier feel with the deeper noises and bowed-strings like passages.

The concluding "Part IV" sees the band working with less forceful and oppressive sounds, keeping the low end scaled back. Instead, they focus on playing with slow, heavily filtered

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melodies scattered atop a slightly dissonant bed of fuzzy noise. While Polidoro is not a newcomer to this type of work, this first released collaboration with Seracini and Tatone is a fully realized debut.



Even with that, there is a slightly more cohesive feel to *Days* that is fitting for a sophomore release. The trio alternates a bit more often here between the light, floaty pieces and the more grounded, rumbling bassy ones. Complex and intertwining layers define much of "Day One", which opens with a shimmering Aurora Borealis like brightness and closes with pristine, beautifully pure tones. On "Day Three" the band continues with what most likely are gentle synth bells and glistening drones. Like many of the other pieces the trio manage to create pieces that are heavily focused on repetition, but never become repetitious.

"Day Two", on the other hand, has the trio working slightly bleaker. Complex, yet heavy melodies factor heavily into the piece, but rather than being grounded it has a disconnected, isolated feel to it that feels more like drifting in outer space than amongst the clouds. "Day Five" pairs the two styles together, with lighter higher register sounds blending with the deeper rumbling passages to result in a great stylistic mix.

The final two pieces close *Days* on a predominantly moody note. The low end surge of "Day Six", mixed with the bowed-string like drones result in a piece that is murkier, with an ever so subtle hint of malignance to it. It never reaches that cavernous reverb and clanking dungeon chains vibe of dark ambient, but hints of that are here. Whereas that piece is somewhat menacing, "Day Seven" has the same rumbling to it, but with the gentle gliding melodies Triac infuse, it sounds more sad than sinister.

With two albums released in the past year, it is unsurprising that much of the sound of *In a Room* and *Days*

sound a bit overlapping. But the strong consistency is balanced by a more daring, diverse sound on *Days*. With a sound consistent with Tu M's output but retaining its own distinct

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identity, Triac have already produced two exceptional albums of rich and diverse, yet meditative and reflective electronic music.

samples:

- [Part I](#)
- [Part II](#)
- [Part IV](#)
- [Day Two](#)
- [Day Six](#)
- [Day Seven](#)