BOTANY
Deepak Verbera

ABOUT THIS RECORD

Deepak Verbera, the third LP by Austin's Spencer Stephenson aka BOTANY, bends the beat-driven path carved by the composer's first two records into meterless cosmic territory, juxtaposing free jazz arrhythmia with cathedral-filling harmony, ringing off the temple walls with soaring grandeur. The billowing textures that loomed behind his previous output break unabashedly into the foreground, shedding the beats that once stenciled them in. What arises in the absence of discernible rhythm is a psych-inflected scrapbook of atmospheres with tremendous sonic and emotional breadth.

Deepak is a Hindi word meaning "lamp" or "source of light", and *Verbera* is a Latin word meaning "lash" or "scourge". This pairing of words articulates the exact dynamic at play here, as brightness intensifies only to dim into darkness, the album vacillates from heavenly luminosity to earthly severity, soothing and searing in patient turns.

In essence *Deepak Verbera* is a soundscape record created through methods usually found in hip-hop; vinyl samples, looped vocal phrases, pulsing bass, and warm synths all shimmer with kosmische-indebted splendor, like Popol Vuh with MPCs and a stack of secondhand records. "Whose Ghost" opens the album in absolute upheaval, challenging the listener to endure an Albert Ayler-style clamor of argumentative drums and brass. Those who weather the storm are soon consoled by the library-music-inspired "Has Appeared" which cleanses the palate for the ascendant, "Ory (Joyous Toil)". Its incense laden sister song "Burning From the Edges Inward" plays like a mini-album unto itself, seamlessly shifting moods with each passage as rolling waves of acoustic piano diffuse into smoked-out guitar drones and witch-like choirs. Side A ends with "Outer Verberum," a guitar-heavy track which can only be described as "free-psych". Tracks like "Gleaning Gleaming" are built out of micro-snippets of soul records that cascade over themselves to become something wholly incomparable to their source.

The album's back cover explains that this music is an attempt to recreate the lost audio recordings of a little-known mystic traveler, Horris E. Campos. During the 1970's and 80's, Campos claimed to have contacted entities made of light that transmitted information to him through vibratory tones, which he then emulated on tape using various overdubbed musical instruments. Whatever the details of Campos' story, *Deepak* transcends this esoteric source to become an allegory of Stephenson's own ability to speak to the ether and bring the message back to us.

ADDITIONAL INFO

• Vinyl format is clear yellow w/ white splatter and download is included.
• Botany has worked with Father John Misty, Mndsgn, Milo, Open Mike Eagle, Balmorhea, Benoit Pioulard, Heems, and many others.
• Botany performed at Bonnaroo 2016 as part of the Red Bull Music Academy, has played Levitation, CMJ, and SXSW.

TRACK LIST

01	Whose Ghost	4:26
02	Appears (Mini Verberum)	2:39
03	Ory (Joyous Toil)	4:48
04	Burning From the Edges Inward	6:38
05	Outer Verberum	3:53
06	Clean Lungs	3:29
07	Gleaning Gleaming	3:31
08	Needam / Wish To	4:45
09	Valediction	3:13
10	Orange Hits the Pupil	6:20

PRESS QUOTES

"...alternatingly danceable and meditative psychedelia...carefully constructed and satisfying..."
– PITCHFORK

"...ominous, warm and absolutely thunderous...glorious synthesis of dusty hip-hop vibes and cosmic free jazz spirit."
– GORILLA VS. BEAR

"...badass...a pretty epic journey all around."
– FADER

"A rich tapestry of hip-hop, pop and psychedelia... too much shit is labeled 'amazing' these days. That lord-on-high word you reserve for the very best of life, liberally sprinkle it all over Stephenson here... This is the real deal Holyfield."
– TINY MIX TAPES

Release Date	Formats	Packaging	Box Lots
OCT 14, 2016	**VINYL LP / CD**	**LP JACKET / 4-PANEL WALLET**	**LP 10 / CD 30**

Catalog Number	Genre	Export Restrictions	Return Policy
WV146	**AMBIENT/JAZZ/PSYCH**	**NONE**	**VINYL IS NON-RETURNABLE**