

# HYMNEN "INFERNO IN VOGUE" CD



## HYMNEN INFERNO IN VOGUE

Cat#: DFM-085

Format: CD



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### TRACK LISTING:

1. Porcile
2. East of the River Jordan
3. Alarm... Trap-Door Escape
4. Terrible Swift Sword
5. White of the Eye
6. Buyer's Remorse

**RIYL: This Heat, Swans, Brian Eno, King Crimson, Pere Ubu, Wire**

### Reviews:

City Paper said "This 4-piece featuring members of Baltimore juggernauts Equus and Brachiation has looked more closely at how sound can be used as an instrument, all the while sticking to its roots...creating songs under the traditional method..."

"'East of the River Jordan' paints a deceptively opulent background [as] reggae and exotica sonorities gently bounce across a cool, unburdening locale. Still, something disconcerting has settled into the mix... [a] natural hysteria that prevents the motifs from becoming relaxing. Before you're even aware, the track spirals into a bastardized blues loop, narrated by a sexually ecstatic, possibly murderous ruler-of-the-roost spinning a convoluted philosophical yarn. It all sounds like it could've been copped from the musings of the leader of a death cult."

**"Vocals are swept into the eye of the storm..tone dissolves, inflection is merely a response to sounds jettisoning into the void.**

Compositionally akin to little films, our songs are usually built from the skeletal body of a drumbeat or bass line. Sudden changes of tone, creeping texture and ambience lurk around the corners of the mix and head towards the crest denouements. All of the songs begin organically, naturally...then we pile things on top of them."

So says Matthew Crisp about **Hymnen** (him-nen), which formed in late 2004, taking its name from Stockhausen's composition of the same title. The quartet set out to create aggressive rock music but avoid the clichés associated with conventional punk/metal. By easing off the distortion boxes and wall of sound mixes, they crafted a stunning push-and-pull tension between rhythm and melody.

Their self-released debut album, *The Abomination that Causes Desolation*, was warmly received and quickly sold out its first pressing. Musically, it was far-reaching enough to incorporate droning Eastern-inflected ragas, frightening industrial soundscapes, loping country rock backbeats underneath shimmering guitar melodies, spastic prog, and taut, unrelenting locked grooves.

Members of the group had done time in a variety of Baltimore bands including the classic rock canon blasting **Equus** and the politically charged post-hardcore **Brachiation**. In preparation for their next batch of material, Equus frontman Pat Rife was added to the mix, resulting in an even more focused methodology and creative intensity. This culmination is evidenced on their 2nd album, *Inferno in Vogue*, a stark and foreboding song cycle that adheres more closely to their original mission statement. From the oceanic wash of opener "Porcile" to the endless coda of "Buyer's Remorse", it's a provocative deconstruction of what constitutes rock music and, quite possibly, where it's headed in the 21st century.

### Selling Points:

- In its short history, Hymnen has already shared the stage with such luminaries as: **Circle, The Psychic Paramount, Extra Golden, Man Man, The Hold Steady, Zombi, Urdog, Deerhunter, Soft Circle, High Places, Liars, Oranges Band, Raveonettes, Rogers Sisters, Burning Brides, Weird War, Earlimart, Young People, Thrushes, Baby Aspirin, Peelander Z, The High Strung, Victory at Sea**, et al.

- Members Patrick Rife (ex-**Equus**, **Silent Meridian**, **Low Moon**), Michael Baier (ex-**Brachiation**) Andrew Crisp (ex-**Equus**), and Matthew Crisp are all active music scene veterans. In addition to 2 proper albums and various personal projects, the band also composed and presented its own original music score for Aleksandr Dovzhenko's 1930 silent masterwork of Soviet propaganda 'Earth' (Zemlya).



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