

DERU

Deru thinks about sound as he falls asleep, when he can't fall asleep, and after he falls asleep, when he wakes up in the morning. Often, if you are sitting with Ben and he looks like he is in a far off land, he is thinking about sound. He strives to make the sounds that he thinks about. He tries to manifest these sounds with various devices - to buy them a ticket out of his head. He longs for the future when he can grab these sounds, and secretly hopes to never reaches that point, for he enjoys this struggle. Ben obsessively keeps a scrapbook, carefully and lovingly rearranging these sounds and melodies into music.

The word *Deru* is the root of such words as *tree* and *duration*. Ben likes the idea that once music is released, it takes on a life of its own - it grows roots. From listening to music while driving along the coast of Spain to listening on headphones in the bathroom of Newark Airport, it is impossible for Ben to predict the life of this music. He enjoys this unpredictability and wouldn't want it any other way.

Benjamin Wynn is from Chicago and lives in LA. He obtained a degree in Music Technology from California Institute of the Arts. He is about 24 (I think). He loves hip-hop, (good hip-hop) and plays it whenever possible.

PRESS AND BOOKING:

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RELEASES:

Deru - Pushing Air (Album on Neo Ouija Records - Neo19)

Deru - Pushing Soil (Remixes from Pushing Air on Delikatessen Records by various artists)

Deru - Migrade (Clicks and Cuts 3 on Mille Plateaux)

Deru remix of Yasume - City Centre Offices

Deru - Album in 2004

Sympathy Belated (acoustic project with Ginormous) - Album in 2004

PRESS:

URB's next 100 - March 2003

"Deru is Los Angeles resident Ben Wynn, and the music on his debut *Pushing Air* [Neo Ouija] seamlessly melds the academy and the streets. The same attention to sonic detail exhibited by many clicks-and-cuts artists is obvious in the shimmering textures and scraping, clacking accents, but the beating heart of Deru's music is the thump and pulse of hip-hop." (By: RG)

Ricardo Villalobos - Pushing Air top album of 2003

REVIEWS:

Grooves - Issue Ten

"There's a lovely sample of the Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong duet "Solitude" that opens the track "You Haunt Me" that neatly sums up why this disc works so well. Deru's *Pushing Air* has a tender but subtle pace, almost a speakeasy ambience of subterranean jazz clubs: a world of easy beats, smoky air, wine and laughter flowing free, underscored by tracks like "Soulik" and "DIN." But there is also a sheen of entropy-like dust, layering a somber mood atop every effort, asking if life is worth the inevitable cost of death. ¶"Confused" adds to the mystery, an open question of whether it is possible to receive a second chance, and the weary, time-stretched "Timebox" answers like Eliot's classic line from *The Hollow Men*: "This is the way the world ends/Not with a bang but a whimper." The living manage to hope, no matter that the shadow of death always follows nearby. Deru's dark, atmospheric work seems to look at this part of our humanity, of perseverance in the face of being condemned in the end. Excellent stuff." (By: Alex Reynolds)

XLR8R - March/April 2003

"So, this new Massive Attack album is quite different...oops, this isn't the new Massive Attack. But maybe it should be, as resonantly hip-hop as its beats are, as soupy and atmospheric as its backing textures feel, and with its few wisps of a woman's voice on 'Din.' Actually, it's one man, LA-based Ben Wynn, and *Pushing Air* falls into that warm, cozy nook that Neo Ouija's been prepping for the last three or four years, the one that's now draped in the easy rolling melodies of Deru and pillowed with

the plush quietude of "Playground" and the rasp of "Soulík" in your ears. All you need now is a sunbeam." (By: Heath K. Hignight)

Boomkat – www.boomkat.com

"Neo Ouija return with another killer release following the huge acclaim received by their previous offering, Xela's mighty "For Frosty Mornings..." full-lengther. Deru has previously come to our attention with his excellent contribution to the most recent installment in Mille Plateaux's Clicks and Cuts series, a blistering downcast blend of hip hop constructions and deep micro-emissions that really stood out alongside a strong, more established line-up. "Pushing Air" carries the theme, from the DSP'd neon ambience of beat less intro "Up" to the introspective shimmering keys, breathy vocals and stomach-moving bass lines of "Echoes of Me". This is an apt follow-up to Xela's masterpiece, finding in itself a love for the b-beats and the midnight tones, both ambient and syncopated, always deep. "Soulík" is a real standout, the sound of a marimba, or a vibraphone of sorts presenting the lilting melody in sequence, a squashed stretch of reverberated hip hop beats, underground bass movements and tones, all produced with that fragility that is so addictive and moving. The album is interspersed with 5 mini-sequences or interludes, cut-up transition points that add to the overall cinematic effect that's at play throughout a brilliant album. Highly Recommended."

Deru's live set consists of himself on computer(s) and electronics, and occasionally with a DJ scratching sounds of Deru's creation.