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Hidden Shoal Recordings » Markus Mehr 'Cousteau' Single and Video

Perth, Australia; Augsburg, Germany. The Australian music label Hidden Shoal Recordings has announced the release of the new single 'Cousteau' by German experimental ambient artist Markus Mehr and its accompanying video, directed by Stefanie Sixt.

Much like *Lava's* first single 'Hubble' evoked the ink-black expanses of outer space, second single 'Cousteau' casts its searchlight beneath the ocean. The track's slow, majestic burn is a thing to behold, and further proof of Mehr's mastery of dynamic drone. Bubbles of fizzy static gradually fade into view before a haunting backwards melody is introduced and then subsumed by liquiform particles and aching synths. The track builds in pressure until the elements fall away, leaving the backwards melody to sing anew before the process begins again, with a renewed feeling of heartbreaking intensity. The track's black-hole magnetism grows as it pulls in all around it, with the resultant build erupting into giant, arcing, electric tendrils.

Mehr's oft collaborator, visual artist Stefanie Sixt (Sixt Sense), has created an incredibly rich and layered widescreen visual accompaniment to 'Cousteau'. Sixt's work traverses film, performance and animation, and has won her several key visual arts awards in Germany.

Mehr's debut album *Lava* holds true to its title – it is a dense surge of glue-think sound, making new paths as it pushes through the landscape. However, after any destructive force there is new growth. Green shoots of melody arc out of the surface and populate the terrain as new possibilities emerge. A new master of heartbreaking ambient drone has arrived. These tracks evoke time spent transfixed, gazing through a giant looking glass, waiting wide-eyed as new discoveries are revealed in the album's textured contours. *Lava's* ability to both suspend the listener in its abstracted liquid vapours and at the same time imprint its affecting narrative is a special thing. It is one of those albums whose emotional impact stays with you long after you feel its last touch.

"In this blissful wanderlust Mehr succeeds in spades creating a completely engrossing, engaging and all together reliable album full of the most powerful ambient-drone tracks this year." - **Tome to the Weather Machine**

"They're 'big' compositions, the sheer scale of the sonic work is rather awe inspiring, but they never sound antagonistic or uncomfortable... it sounds like the ebb and flow of space itself – individual snippets of a grand, repeating, organic process that keeps the universe in balance..." - **No Ripcord**

Mehr wrote and recorded *Lava* in his own studio using guitars and synths, plus any noise-making accoutrements at hand – electric shavers, ventilators, electric tooth brushes and field recordings – all processed and distorted to create a gorgeous wall of sound, akin to the classic '70s Kosmische music of Klaus Schulze and Tangerine Dream, but also the contemporary masters of textured luminosity, Fennesz and Tim Hecker. Mehr's live plans for the European summer of 2010 include performances in churches, galleries and large disused gas tanks, as well as collaborations with visual artist Stefanie Sixt.

'Cousteau' is available for free download from the Hidden Shoal Store and its accompanying music video is available for streaming via YouTube and Vimeo. Markus Mehr's debut *Lava* is available now through Hidden Shoal Recordings.

Hidden Shoal Recordings is an Australia-based independent music label that has earned a reputation for releasing exciting and engaging new independent music that is not bound by genre or style. The label has been dubbed "This generation's 4AD" by prominent New York radio host DJ Mojo.

Label Site: <http://music.hiddenshoal.com>

Label Store: <http://agora.hiddenshoal.com>

Markus Mehr: <http://www.myspace.com/markusmehr>

Stefanie Sixt: <http://www.sixt-sense.de/>