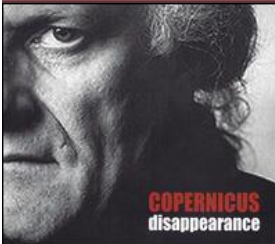


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disappearance Copernicus [Send to Friend](#)



Review by Michael G. Nastos

Joseph Smalkowski aka Copernicus displays a vocal presence that has a deity-like egotism that wants to warn you of impending doom, telling his cautionary tales through terminology related to physics. An imposing storyteller capable of convincing you that life is hollow and human beings need to look deeper within themselves even down to a molecular level, Copernicus conjures these brow beatings and serious wake-up calls through a pronounced style of prose, poetry, and spoken word accented by various styles of music that are improvised, but refers through strains of electronica, jazz, blues, and space themes. This is not new, as Copernicus has released several recordings, hundreds of books, and other media to get his point across. He's very much like a current-day Arthur Brown, sounding the alarm of our travails and shortcomings with fire and brimstone texts similar to that of a Southern preacher, but without industrial-religious complex trappings. Perhaps the most insightful piece of philosophy on the CD, "Humanity Created the Illusion of Itself" does refer to a God of nothingness and asks if we are afraid of God in the context of what "they" think over a funky ostinato bass bottom. "Poor Homo Sapiens" suggest a means of escape from the flesh-contained bubble with tuba and organ in a more organic, folkish strain. The 21-minute "Revolution!!" is steeped in march, funk, spoken word, existential metaphysics. The remainder of the material obsesses on the sub-atomic makeup of our physicality, glomming on electrons, protons, and neutrons as if they can somehow be improved if we look deeper inside their quarky souls. "Atomic New Orleans" is poignant from a post-Katrina viewpoint in a rocking blues base with an added vocal chorus. Similarities to John Cale are unmistakable during "The Blind Zombies" with circular whirring keyboard synths and a tuneful framework. You hear a stretching of vocal chords and whistling during a distinctly poetic "The Quark Gluon Plasma" settled by acoustic guitars. This music, directed by Pierce Turner, for the most part is free flowing, closer to a soundscape that matches the word play very well. It would be wise to know what you are getting into before you experience Copernicus, and then draw your own conclusions.

**Album Browser**  
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**Artist**  
Copernicus

**Album**  
disappearance

**Rating**  
★★★★☆

**Release Date**  
2009

**Recording Date**  
Nov 2, 2008

**Label**  
Nevermore/Moonjune

**Genre**  
Pop/Rock

**Styles**  
Alternative/Indie Rock  
Alternative Pop/Rock  
Poetry  
Spoken Word

**Moods**  
Angst-Ridden  
Irreverent  
Cathartic  
Knotty  
Difficult  
Searching  
Intense  
Freewheeling  
Passionate  
Theatrical  
Wry  
Gutsy  
Literate  
Cerebral  
Lively  
Uncompromising  
Cold  
Quirky

**Themes**  
Freedom  
Empowering  
The Creative Side

**Tracks**

	Title	Composer	Time
1	12 Subatomic Particles	Copernicus	9:48
2	The Quark Gluon Plasma	Copernicus	7:23
3	The Blind Zombies	Copernicus	8:45
4	Humanity Created the Illusion of Itself.	Copernicus	6:57
5	Atomic New Orleans	Copernicus	5:23
6	Poor Homo Sapiens	Copernicus	13:49
7	Revolution !!	Copernicus	20:56

✓ indicates Track Pick

**Releases**

Year	Type	Label	Catalog #
2009	CD	Nevermore/Moonjune	2091

AMG Album ID

R 1600005

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