



GÜNTER SCHICKERT

NACHTFALTER



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Released on the legendary label 'Brain', Günter Schickert's debut *Samtvoegel* (1975) was one of the most significant guitar albums of the Krautrock era. Points of comparison from today's perspective are Syd Barrett or Pink Floyd's more adventurous early recordings. Schickert's follow-up *Überfällig* of 1980 was released on the equally legendary 'Sky' label. Once again a milestone recording, it showcased Schickert's hypnotic echo guitar which developed into one of the hallmarks of the Krautrock sound.

Schickert's new album *Nachtfalter*, translating as 'moth' in English, carries on from these beginnings, making it hard to believe that he has in the meantime reached pension age. Recorded during the scorching hot summer of 2018, *Nachtfalter* shows the pioneer of the echo guitar sound his very best. Here Schickert was assisted by Andreas Spechtl ('Ja, Panik') who recorded the album and played the drums. They form a truly winning team: Spechtl selected the best moments of Schickert's guitar tracks, mixed them while also supplying some own loops.

Even though the album was conceived as an instrumental, it inadvertently developed into a concept piece---named after the moth, which had entered the room at some point during the recording sessions. As a silent witness, it clung to the ceiling all night; in the morning, Schickert found the insect dead on the floor. He took a photo of the moth for the cover artwork of his album, paying tribute to the dead animal.

Nachtfalter opens with the atmospheric track "Nocturnus", Schickert's conch shell horns creating an eerie mood. Next, the Krautrock juggernaut "Ceiling" runs to nearly seven minutes of playing time and it's not just the music levitating here. A further highlight is the urgent "Wohin" with its insistent, furious drumming by Spechtl whose patterns meet the howling echo guitar by Schickert.

The only track on the album predating the recording sessions is an impressive "Reflections": concluding the album it unites all the elements of *Nachtfalter*'s hypnotic soundscapes. The music could serve as soundtrack to a horror movie, with guitar sounds being complemented by strange noise resembling a train whistle, plus the squealing and humming of a tormented analogue synthesizer.

"I was born in Berlin and am a true city child", explains Schickert, "When I was young, I often travelled on the bus or the underground train. The awesome rhythm of the engines has indelibly imprinted itself on me. My music has been the expression of this experience." Listening to *Nachtfalter*, one can only conclude that on his captivating album, Günter Schickert has created a perfect synthesis of the hectic, motoric rhythm of the big city and the gentle beat of the wings of a moth.

Tracklisting

1. Nocturnus
2. Ceiling
3. Flügelschlag
4. Floor
5. Wohin
6. Light
7. Reflection Of The Future



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