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Hidden Shoal Recordings » Markus Mehr *Lava* Official Release

Perth, Australia; Augsburg, Germany. The Australian music label Hidden Shoal Recordings has announced the CD release of the album *Lava* by German experimental ambient artist Markus Mehr, following its digital release in June.

Lava holds true to its title – it is a dense surge of glue-think sound, making new paths as it pushes through the landscape. But, 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.

On epic opener 'Agenda', layers of gorgeous synth gradually accumulate into a gloriously massive chord. On single 'Hubble', a bedrock of fuzzed drone is decorated with glistening counter-melodies, tracing shards of light across the coal-black skies. 'Softwar' builds and then falls away, only to return with a spine-tingling theme that crumbles under its own majesty.

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.

Markus Mehr's musical journey began with the guitar. He grew up listening to bands like Black Sabbath and AC/DC, before turning his ears to darker sounds and the ethereal, experimental pop

of David Sylvian. After recording and touring with several bands, he struck out on his own with home studio project Aroma.

Now working under his own name, Mehr wrote and recorded *Lava* at his home 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.

The CD release of the album comes in a custom amaray case with gorgeous widescreen artwork and is distributed through n5Mailorder. *Lava* is also available in all digital formats through Hidden Shoal Recordings and all good digital stores.

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. Hidden Shoal Recordings was chosen as one of the top ten favourite labels of 2007 by *Textura* magazine, and has been dubbed "This generation's 4AD" by prominent New York radio host DJ Mojo.

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