



PSYCHIC ILLS

Catoptric

TRANSMUTE (5.14) • SECRET FLOWER (4.41)
INDUS ECHO (4.47) • OUTVOCATION (11.36)

LABEL: THE SOCIAL REGISTRY
CATALOG NUMBER: TSR075
FORMAT: LP
STREET DATE: 06/22/2010

SELLING POINTS:

1. LP IS STRICTLY LIMITED TO 500 COPIES, PRESSED ON COLORED VINYL AND COMES IN BEAUTIFUL HAND ASSEMBLED SILK-SCREENED ARTWORK WITH AN INSERT.
2. PSYCHIC ILLS ARE AN INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED BAND WHO HAVE RELEASED TWO FULL-LENGTHS ON THE SOCIAL REGISTRY.
3. PSYCHIC ILLS HAVE TOURED ALL OVER THE US AND EUROPE PLAYING WITH BANDS SUCH AS BUTTHOLE SURFERS, BLACK DICE, ANIMAL COLLECTIVE, TRAD GRAS OCH STENAR, NO NECK BLUES BAND, PSYCHIC TV, SONIC BOOM, INDIAN JEWELRY, THE BLACK ANGELS AND EXCEPTER.

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"Perfectly ambiguous, either older than time or as new as tomorrow's technology, but either way, fitting seamlessly into a groove." -- Dusted Magazine

"Blery eyed and blurred around the edges, this NYC quartet set their stall somewhere between oceanic guitar abstraction and the brittle crunch of psychedelic garage rock, feeding their extended chugging jams through a thick fog of fuzz." -- The Wire

The Social Registry is pleased to present *Catoptric* by **Psychic Ills**, a collection of music recorded around the same time as the bands expansive trance rock epic, *Mirror Eye*, released at the beginning of 2009. *Catoptric*, defined as 'relating to mirrors,' is an apt title for this release on the heels of that LP.

The record is a document of the time spent before and after the recording of *Mirror Eye* and contains music recorded over a couple years that the band decided to dust of and release to close that chapter. Some of these tracks were recorded when **Psychic Ills** were operating as a three-piece configuration of **Elizabeth Hart**, **Brian Tamborello** and **Tres Warren**, and another was recorded later after **Jimmy Sei Tang** joined the ranks. Most of it was laid down by Mitch Rackin at the now defunct Junkyard Audio Salvage in Brooklyn. Additional jamming and tinkering was done with No Necks Blues Bands' Jason Meagher at his Black Dirt studios upstate and the final mixes were resolved at Barry London's Acropolis studios in Brooklyn.

Catoptric begins with "Transmute," a circular descent into the maze. Initially based around hypnotic sitar-like guitar and hand drum repetition, ascending and descending synth shifts give way to ceremonial sounding percussion and echoed incantations that eventually dissolve back from where they came. The cavernous throb of "Secret Flower" follows with its stiff beat, pulsing bass line and droning yet melodic synth and guitar components. "Indus Echo" closes out the side with hazy synth loops, raga like scales and nearly inaudible chanting driven forward the whole time by warm echoed bass and persistent hand drumming that reconfirms the bands preoccupation with picking things up and putting them down.

The second side of *Catoptric* ups the drone ante with "Outvocation," a side long cut that could be the soundtrack to an unwritten film. Beginning with sparse distant gong hits that give way to minimal percussion and modular synth sounds before diving into a void of synthesizers, filtered effects and vocalizations, eventually arriving at a simultaneously tranquil and chaotic repetition.

At once intangible and familiar, **Psychic Ills'** way of blending free flowing pieces and song ideas made of both organic and electronic sounds make *Catoptric* a condensed epic of sorts. Even further, with its random colored vinyl, and screen printed sleeve, it is as much an artifact as it is a piece of audio history.

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