

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Debut solo album release from DEAD RAT ORCHESTRA member, now based in Cairo.**

DANIEL MERRILL: BAYT-CLARKE

HYP004

Limited LP (20 copies) Lathe-Cut vinyl and Bandcamp download.

<https://nujumi.bandcamp.com/>

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Label: Hypostatic Union [www.hypostatic-union.com](http://www.hypostatic-union.com)

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Bayt-Clarke is the new solo full-length from Dead Rat Orchestra mainstay Daniel Merrill under his new guise, Nujumi, a UK musician / producer now based in Cairo, Egypt.

A significant departure from his work with Dead Rat Orchestra, the album is collages the minimalist electronica in the vein of Kraftwerk, Subotnik and Riley, juxtaposed with neo-romantic string orchestras. The new approach came very much as a result of his situation in Egypt, and the various opportunities and barriers encountered. As Daniel explains:

“Having constructed a studio in an semi-legal rooftop shack in Tagamoa, I set about building a new sonic architecture, where the process of composing and recording were thoroughly entwined. Returning to my teenage love of minimalist synthesis techniques, combined with my interpretation of Egyptian and Nubian drum patterns and technique, threaded together with my enduring passion for string orchestration.”

Inspiration for the album’s theme was close at hand...

Overlooking a commanding view of the Nile Bayt Clarke is the house of British Architect, archaeologist, and Nubian/Egyptian rights activist George Somers-Clarke, who is buried in its courtyard. Unlike many of his colleagues, such as Howard Carter, for whom he built dig houses and drafted site maps, Somers Clarke built using local technologies. As a forbear to the concept of appropriate and sustainable architecture he combined his architectural knowledge with the primary building material of Nubia, mud brick.

From the silt of the Nile he constructed on a scale rarely seen with this material, working with local labourers to realise his ideas. This interaction led him to write and campaign on their behalfs; in Tales of the Omdeh he criticised British policy of supporting corrupt officials who extorted slave labour from the felahine.  In The Destruction of Nubia, he railed against the British plan to construct a dam at Aswan, recognising the environmental, historic and cultural destruction it would reap on Nubia, and tore into British officials over their complacency about the impact this would have on Nubians. In doing so he documented the corruptions and deceptions perpetrated by the Egyptian and British authorities and the greed of the wealthy delta land owners who would drown Nubia to increase the value of their own land.

Daniel: “Bayt Clarke has caught my imagination for some time. Playing with ideas originating from particular geographies in building new imaginings of the past and present has always been part of my work with Dead Rat Orchestra, as has the interaction of cultures. However, in the isolation I find in Cairo musicking, intensified by the pandemic, these fascinations embodied in these peculiar phantasmagorical conceptions.”

Bayt Clarke sees its release on Hypostatic Union, the label vehicle of long time friend and occasional musical associate Stafford Glover (Extreme Noise Terror, Enclosed & Silent Order), in the form of 20 lathe cut LPs, expertly crafted by Michael Lawrence (aka The Bricoleur) at Bladud Flies!, and mastered by John Hannon (Liberez, Woe) at No Recording, Essex. Download is also available.

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