

Veneration For The Sacred Action

Various

Life Is Beautiful 2xCD/3xLP/DL

Founded by the enigmatic multi-instrumentalist aloisius in 2023, the Life Is Beautiful label is a conduit for what he terms a Gesamtkunstwerk, the artistic output of an improvisation based collective of London creators. Artist/musician NWAKKE, cellist Abi Asisa, avant beatmaker Jasper Maurice, multidisciplinary artist THE NARRATOR, producer/dancer Bianca Scout and poet/rapper Isaiah Hull all figure in the core troupe, gently guided by aloisius's light touch.

Veneration For The Sacred Action is the third album the label has released this year following aloisius's debut *vernacular* and a live Cafe Oto set recorded in June and credited to orchestra379. The styles covered on this compilation nip and tuck between spoken word, improvised free jazz, quasi-chamber music and a lot more in between.

"Never Wasted Time" by (also) is simply a 25 second drum break, while "ur love" by The paws is quietly beautiful, a flute and acoustic guitar-led loop interspersed with swooning vocals. Formaldehyde 'N' The Bleach Girls is one of Jasper Maurice's pseudonyms, and "Walk The Waste" adds a reverb-heavy psych edge to 1960s surf rock. Isaiah Hull's "Most Beautiful Organ" underlines the artist's knack for taking grime bars to new places. "Welcome To Hello" from Bianca Scout and Cajm is a deceptively minimal poem of competing tones and glitches, and the circuitous grooves of aloisius's "You Are God" mingles wonky keys, footwork beats and gospel humming.

The intimacy of the productions here gives a feeling of being party to a group of trusted friends sharing ideas. These are collaborators who allow each other to express themselves and to go along with whatever alchemy develops. The resulting album is an enticing insight into one of the most important arts collectives working in the UK right now and a timely reminder that there is strength in numbers.

Simon Coates