

Anti-Soul Organization

First Biennial Report On Studies & Research In Textures & Rhythm

Blorpus Editions CD/DL

Emblematic of the heat currently being generated in Chicago's noise and improvisation scene, SEEN is a self-defined queer coalition of film makers, researchers and curators who aim to disrupt the system of pay-to-play festivals and censored queer spaces. Events like their Take Back The Internet nights mash together conceptual artists, electro-disrupting musicians and image-makers, platforming the likes of performance curator Gnat Bowden, hardcore girl band iH8ithere and doomcore experimentalist and improviser Deirdre Fromberg.

Fromberg is also one third of Chicago's Anti-Soul Organization, along with polymath Sydney Léonie Pritchard (aka sulffffffur, DJ Children's Museum, et al) and breakcore/gabber specialist [destruction.esk](#). Between performing crushing, glitchy live sets, curating events and pursuing solo projects, the three spent 2023-25 investigating possibilities around electronically produced textures and rhythms. The resulting album *First Biennial Report On Studies & Research In Textures & Rhythm* serves as documentation of their findings.

The tracks are named as a numbered theses – “thesis 20 – gatekeeper”, “thesis 38 – brainticket”, “thesis 44 – folly”, and so on. Durations vary from under two minutes to over 17. “gatekeeper” is all whirling, white noise scatter shots, while “brainticket” is an ear-tickling, woozy set of crackles and chugs soundtracking an insistent Germanic voice. “folly” is full-tilt clamour, its bruising beats recalling the crossover between 1980s industrial music and the EBM characterised by the likes of Deutsch Amerikanische Freundschaft: danceable yet disconcerting.

Given its title, it's natural to link this album with Throbbing Gristle's habit of couching their work as a series of company reports. In fact, the sounds presented on *First Biennial Report* have much in common with TG's grinding noise and raw anger. This is an album to savour.