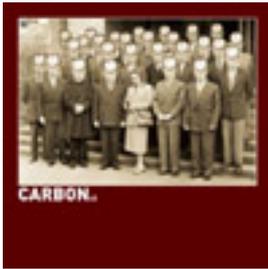


Brainwashed - "Carbon"

Written by Gary Suarez

Saturday, 03 July 2004 19:45 - Last Updated Tuesday, 30 August 2005 06:07

[Mirex](#)



After three years of eclectic 7" singles and a couple of Fanny CDs, my favorite Ant-Zen sublabel Mirex presents its first-ever compilation. Many people seem to worship the Hymen sister label yet neglect this high-quality breakcore imprint, although this intense collection will surely attract new converts to join the ranks of the already respectable number of devotees. *Carbon*

marks its unique place in the Ant-Zen tradition by screaming Top 40 song lyrics at the top of its lungs, pissing blood all over the rug, and boasting a roster of familiar established names as well as rising underground scene stars. Here, breakcore displays its many hideous and goofy faces in true schizophrenic fashion, and while industrial purists may revel in the brutality of Hecate and recent signing Subskan, many will be tempted to cringe over the subversive mash-up experiments of Ove-Naxx and Donna Summer. Those who resist the knee-jerk anti-pop reflex and stay open-minded will be aurally rewarded for their efforts. Representative of the style off his full-length

From Zero

, Enduser's "Basement" creatively fuses a somber Tori Amos piano riff and ragga MC toasting with crunchy junglist and hip hop loops. Drop The Lime makes an appearance here with "Chump Killers," a DSP-fucked blend of spastic electro-funk and hyperactive broken beats akin to his work for the likeminded Tigerbeat6 label. "Kiss Me On The Dancefloor," the phenomenal selection from Sickboy, throws together a maddeningly delicious, yet undeniably aggressive, update of old school rave. Mirex would do well to snatch up more of this guy's work for a CD release immediately. Atypical to this release, Line 47's "Taken Away" offers an unusual yet gratifying moment where the noise and mischief are somewhat toned down in favor of melancholy and melody. From Blaerg's Hitchcockian beginnings to End's Morricone-inspired closer, these twenty tracks continually pummel the speakers and delight the ears. Though notably lacking any presence of the notoriously prolific Venetian Snares, arguably the biggest name in the subgenre today,

Carbon

comes out stronger than any breakcore compilation I've heard to date, including those that do include the Snares Man. While I am tempted to call Mirex "a label to watch," people should have honestly caught on before now. Jump on the bandwagon now and perhaps the rest of us will accept you... in time.

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[samples:](#)

- [Sickboy - Kiss Me On the Dancefloor](#)
- Line 47 - [Taken Away](#)

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