

DOWNTOWN *Music* GALLERY

RENÉ LUSSIER / MARTIN TÉTREAULT / ÉRICK d'ORION / ROBBIE KUSTER - PRinTeMps 2021 (Victo CD 134; Quebec; Canada)

- Bruce Lee Gallanter, November 19, 2021

Featuring René Lussier on guitar & daxophone, Martin Tétreault on turntables & electronics, Érick d'Orion on electronics and Robbie Kuster on drums. I recall the times when the Victo label released some 3-5 discs a year, most of them from concerts which took place at the previous annual Creative Music Fest a/k/a FIMAV. Things have changed in recent years since CD's are selling less so the Victo label releases usually 1 disc per year. This disc was recorded earlier this year in May of 2021, and it features a fine Quebecois quartet. Guitarist René Lussier I've known since the early days of Victo when he played in a duo called Les Granules with Jean Derome, both of those players were

members of Fred Frith's Keep the Dog, while Mr. Lussier was also a member of the Fred Frith Guitar Quartet. Mr. Lussier also cofounded the Ambiances Magnétiques (AM) label, which released a number of his diverse projects. Lussier plays at FIMAV every few years and each time with a different project. This quartet also features turntablist, Martin Tétreault, who has also had many discs out on AM label and has done a number of great duos with Otomo, Kid Koala and Kevin Drumm. The other two musicians' names, Érick d'Orion and Robbie Kuster are mostly new names for me although Mr. Kuster does have a trio effort out on the AM label.

The thing I've always dug about Mr. Lussier is the way his guitar always shines through whatever context or group of musicians he plays with. The set starts out slowly with mysterious sounds floating together. A soft cushion of hands-on-drums, eerie, fractured guitar sounds, turntable and/or electronic sounds swirling tightly together. Although this music is freely improvised, there is some strong focus at the center, an obvious center to the electronic storm. On the second track, "La suivante", the drummer breaks into a sly groove at one point while the rest of the quartet spins tightly around him. The odd sounds of a daxophone (invented by Hans Reichel, who made one for each member of the Frith Guitar Quartet), sampled voices and strange electronic sounds. Since the electric guitar is so diverse, stylistically or genre-wise, it often adds a direction or genre-like recognition when it emerges from the various sonic waves around it. The turntable, which is also much more utilized in the 1980's and 1990's, also adds a certain older sound that we don't hear as often nowadays. It is currently dinnertime (11/17/21) in my apt building and both the aroma of someone cooking near me and sounds of the disc both evoke odd memories of dinners with friends (at Mykonos) and the way the FIMAV fest always delivers us the best in Creative Making every year. Last year the festival didn't occur and earlier this year, I couldn't attend due to travel restrictions between the US & Canada, which makes me sad since I've been attending this wonderful fest every year since 1987. This disc helps me to deal with the loss of not attending this year and missing all my friends from the fest and the long journey to get there, listen seriously and experience something ever so special! Happy off to René Lussier, my old friend and the rest of this wondrous quartet!

