

Tiago Sousa

Walden Pond's Monk

Immune Recordings

Immune is very proud to announce the release of *Walden Pond's Monk*, the new album from Portuguese musician and composer **Tiago Sousa**. Following the limited vinyl-only album *Insonia* released in 2009 on German label **Humming Conch**, *Walden Pond's Monk* is the first album from **Sousa** released worldwide on both CD and LP formats.

Walden Pond's Monk is a piece that was composed and heavily influenced by the idealism and revolutionary spirit of **Henry David Thoreau**. The album is a natural evolution of the aesthetics already present in the previous album *Insónia*, while at the same time it reveals the maturity of a composer who consistently challenges himself.

In this album, **Tiago Sousa** maintains the same intuitive and spontaneous approach to the piano and remains convincingly impermeable to the normative formalisms of genre and academism. With **Ricardo Ribeiro** (clarinet) and **Baltazar Molina** (percussion), **Sousa** builds a piece in a continuous momentum, anchored on impressionist melodies of disarming simplicity and interrupted by a stormy improvisation.

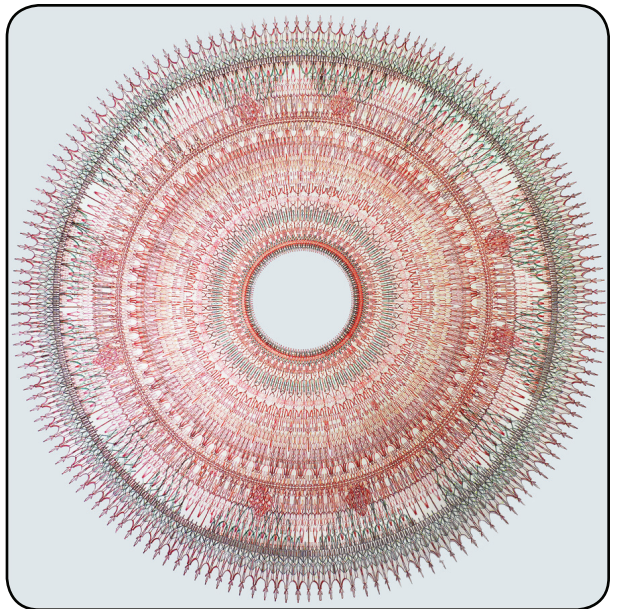
During the thirty two minutes of *Walden Pond's Monk*, **Tiago Sousa** nourishes a romantic narrative based upon the essential ideas that **Thoreau** documented in works like *Walden* or *Civil Disobedience*: the profound respect for freedom and for the infinite expression of the possibilities of men. An unexpected encounter that outdoes the limits of an album and becomes roundly an artistic and personal manifest for **Tiago Sousa**. *Walden Pond's Monk* stands out not only because of the mature composition work, but also for the natural but yet surprising confluence between the aesthetics of the composer and the ideological concepts that he absorbed from **Thoreau**.

Tiago Sousa was initially known as the founder of Portuguese netlabel **Merzbau**, but in the last few years has been a very active solo artist. Always preferring the intuitive approach to music and stepping aside from the frontiers of genre and formal academism, he has become one of the most promising names in the Portuguese musical scene. Before his work with piano, **Tiago** founded the band **Goodbye Toulouse** and was part of the collectives **Jesus, the Misunderstood**, **Sapien Sapiens** and **Macadame**. He is also one of the Barreiro-based artists that belong to a generation that created and produced festivals like **Out.fest** and **Barreiro Outras Músicas**.



In 2006, the piano became the gravitational center of his music with the release of *Crepúsculo*. It was followed by *Noite/Nuit*, a split released with **SRX** in 2007 on **Merzbau**. In 2008, Tiago released *The Western Lands*, a challenging record named after the book by **William S. Burroughs**, on the German label **Resting Bell**. *The Western Lands* gave him his first press reviews, a tour throughout Europe and precious moments on stage with **Shannon Wright**, **Vic Chestnutt** and **Paul Metzger**. 2009 saw the release of his third LP *Insonia* on Berlin's **Humming Conch** label. The album was met with critical praise and was on many of the year's best Portuguese lists. Simultaneously, he began a new cycle of concerts that took him to Teatro Maria Matos, Galeria Zé dos Bois, Festival Rescaldo and, once again, to Berlin, Brussels, and Paris among others.

2011 will see Tiago touring and performing in support of the new album *Walden Pond's Monk*.



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