

## GEISTFORM – TENSION

It's not difficult to be amazed by what has been made by the spanish musician **Rafael Martinez Espinosa**, better known as **Geistform**, in his last EP **Tension**, released by Hands Productions: a work that strongly detaches itself from the past musicians's artistic vision, in order to try the alternative way of the so called "industrial techno", that maybe is knowing what we can call a form of "success". What is true is that we are in front of the listening of one of the best dark techno releases of the current year.

Four very gloomy and hard songs, embellished by various kinds of interferences and noisy sounds that are Geistform's trademarks, but that here constitute an additional element to his music, very solid apocalyptic techno able to shake any dancefloor. Let's think about two hard and fast episodes such as *Tension* and *Interaction*, as well as about the less strong episodes, but always incisive, such as *Dark matter* and *Attractor*. What gives value to this Geistform's release, even if we have to admit that here we're far from his masterpieces, is how nowadays rarely so incisive hard techno like this is produced, preferring sometimes the use of sickly solutions, not able to engage the listener. This release is, in some way, a trip to the techno roots and, in a certain sense, the payment of a tribute to its inventors.

A work entirely played, as the title says, upon a neverending anxious and claustrophobic atmosphere, as well as upon a *tension* that bring our bodies to move very fast, following the fast rhythmic of the songs. The *opener*, in the beginning, starts with a classic Geistform's introduction, to evolve in an engaging techno anthem embellished by post-industrial like sounds and superstructures, while the following *Tension* slows down, not changing the heaviness of the air breathe and giving great space to several cacophonous sounds. However, the more straight song is *Interaction*, played upon a gloomy and deep sound and upon a fast rhythm. The final song *Dark matter* slows down again the rhythm, using a soundscape consisting of anxious beats as well as clearly old school-derived Morse codes and cinematographic atmospheres.

With *Tension*, Geistform presents us that particular hybrid that the rhythmic industrial music is knowing in some of its directions, creating songs that have a very high value within the techno-industrial environment, although not being, we think, the musical field in which he succeeds in expressing himself at his best. This is an interesting experimental work for an artist maybe often imprisoned in too tight chains within a single stylistic direction, and expression, at the same time, of what's new, very well interpreted by a label such as **Hands Productions** that, intelligently, don't have fear to propose different products (and formats), portraying at its best what is happening in certain cross-genres electronic music.

Score: 8

Label: Hands Productions

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