

MUSIC SCENE

John Vanderslice



Emerald City - Barsuk Records

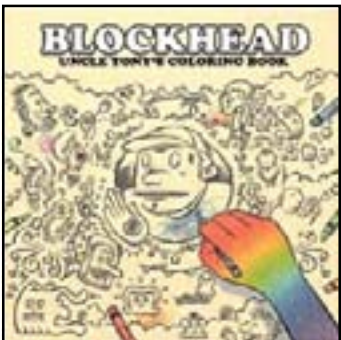
Emerald City

MUSIC REVIEWED BY BOB JONES

Sometimes a certain amount of paranoia or temporary madness from an artist may make for beautiful but disturbing art. This may be the case for Gainesville native John Vanderslice's new record, Emerald City. In it he weaves both real stories of 9/11 and accounts of imagined terrorist attacks. In real life, Vanderslice is going through the red tape of getting his Parisian girlfriend

into the states, without much luck so far, so the tightening of National Security may fuel his obsession. On first listen, "White Dove" is the song that really caught my ear, but it's no hymn to peace: "Don't come around here no more/It's not about mercy/It's not about tears anymore." The lyrics of the first tune, "Kookaburra" (a bird whose call mimics maniacal human laughter), tell of the fictional white-on-white of vaporized dust that fills the air as the Chrysler building disappears, after the Capitol Dome has already vanished. In "Tablespoon of Codeine," Vanderslice references the theory that 9/11 was faked, with demolition and remote-controlled planes, first introduced in the intriguing but unverified Internet-blockbuster movie Loose Change. The acoustic guitar dominates this record but it has some overdrive, in some places with a full-on rock band, added to give the acoustic guitar distortion. Sonically, it sounds a bit like Neutral Milk Hotel's Aeroplane Over The Sea (the seminal record about an Anne Frank obsession.) Vanderslice has made a powerful record that may bring out both the record geek and the conspiracy theorist in you. ■

Blockhead



Uncle Tony's Coloring Book - Ninja Tune Records

Uncle Tony's Coloring Book

MUSIC REVIEWED BY BOB JONES

My shopping-plaza neighbor, Brotherhood Brent, and I have started a street gang too fierce to be named. We do not have colored bandanas—instead, we represent by wearing a flash drive around our necks

on a lanyard. We are taking new recruits, but don't even think about joining our gang unless your bling is one gig or higher. One of the bigger stars of the underground hip hop movement, Blockhead will be found with 50 Cent or Tupac in a music store, but he has very little in common with them, and is more likely to use a vocal sample than a rapper. In fact, Uncle Tony's Coloring Book has not one rhyme busted. Call it hip-hop for those seeking free Wi-Fi. The first tune, "Coloring Book," kicks off with what sounds like a children's record before it becomes a little Latin number that samples a well-played LP of mysterious origins. "Duke Of Hazzard" sounds like, well, a TV-show theme song, but not for that action-packed '70s fave. This one would be on one of today's premium channels, with many a killing and foul language. Did I forget to mention that Uncle Tony's Coloring Book is fun? It's a record that you can get a speeding ticket to or take to the gym and get your heart pumping. Yo. ■

Carol Orr Hartman
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