



DOWNTOWN
Music GALLERY

NATE WOOLEY
Battle Pieces

by Bruce Lee Gallanter
Feb 2015

NATE WOOLEY With INGRID LAUBROCK/MATT MORAN/SYLVIE COURVOISIER - Battle Pieces (Relative Pitch 1031; USA) Featuring Nate Wooley on trumpet & compositions, Ingrid Laubrock on tenor sax, Matt Moran on vibes and Sylvie Courvoisier on piano. This disc was recorded at the Tricentric Foundation Festival at Roulette in April of 2014. One can tell that Mr. Wooley put a great deal of thought into the composing of and picking the personnel for this rich masterpiece. This work consists of four "Battle Pieces" and three pieces titled "Tape Deconstruction", each piece is numbered. Mr. Wooley's distinctive and diverse trumpet is featured on the first piece with minimal yet strong support from the sax, vibes and piano. The music is carefully arranged and performed, much closer to modern chamber music than jazz. Each piece seems to have a (partially) written line which is played by one instrument and then repeated while the other players add lines or solo but never stepping on each other. This disc is long (about 51 minutes) and each piece evolves slowly. What is different about this from other recent Downtown works is the cautious use of space. We haven't heard much from vibes man Matt Moran on recent recordings so it is nice to hear him softly bowing his vibes and letting one or two notes ring with suspense. Besides the consistently spirited playing of Mr. Wooley, the other three members of this quartet sound different from what they do in their own ensembles, hence there is a unified group sound here makes this even more impressive. I get the feeling that it will take several serious listening sessions to get the entirety of this fine gem. - Bruce Lee Gallanter, DMG -- CD \$14