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Tracklisting:

- 1 Ondulation (4:00)
- 2 Meltaway (6:00)
- 3 Temperate (3:45)
- 4 The Tracker (8:25)
- 5 Im Raum (12:00)
- 6 Kohlzug (11:00)
- 7 Balistory (8:30)

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DIETER MOEBIUS

BLOTCH

Reissue (originally released 1999)

CD / vinyl / download

Out: March 25, 2016



In a nutshell:

- Dieter Moebius—half of the legendary duo Cluster and the godfather of electronic krautrock—passed away in the summer of 2015. Bureau B is now rereleasing his last four solo albums. The series begins with *Blotch* from 1999, featuring loop-based tracks which delve stoically into experimental sonic atmospheres that playfully and sensuously hypnotize the listener.

Dieter Moebius has worked with the crème de la crème of the electronic, krautrock and ambient scenes. Most famous is of course the "long-term project" Cluster with Hans-Joachim Roedelius, which existed from 1969 until 2010 (with lengthy breaks in between). The duo was also augmented in changing formations involving legendary colleagues such as Conny Plank, Michael Rother or Brian Eno. Yet solo albums remained an exception. In 1983 he published his first, entitled *Tonspuren*, which was followed a whole 17 years later by his second solo album, *Blotch*. Typical for an oeuvre which is characterized by understatement, Moebius named his album after a mere dab of paint. Nevertheless, this record marks a turning point in his work. From this album onwards, up until his death in the summer of 2015, he focused increasingly on his solo work, enabling us to examine his musical contribution separately and microscopically.

Blotch is far removed from the ease that defines *Tonspuren*. Overall, the tracks on this album feel like loop-based sketches, which stoically delve into experimental sonic atmospheres – seasoned with snippets of speech – that hypnotize the listener with the smallest of variations and embellishments. The surprising twelve minute long track *Kohlzug* sticks out with a saxophone played in the No Wave style. It suggests a decelerated version of Ted Milton's jazz-punk. Sonically, *Blotch* is clearly a product of its time: Dieter Moebius used an E-mu Orbit 9090 sound module and the then-current solo synth Korg Prophecy. This pioneering digital synthesizer was among the first to provide various algorithms and modes of synthesis to mimic the sounds of analog synthesizers in detail. By the way: The highly characteristic yet admittedly not especially beautiful instrument, which was far ahead of its time, is available for next to nothing these days.

Moebius recorded his tracks with a Yamaha eight-track recorder. The mastering was completed by the renowned American composer and ambient veteran Tim Story at his studio in Ohio. Story, who also produced Cluster's final album *Qua* in 2009, himself contributed some atmospheric highlights using a prepared piano, a heavily processed steel guitar and a closing piano miniature of the piece *Balistory*, which was originally intended as the final song. The rerelease was later augmented by the bonus track *Neues*.

Blotch is a turning point in the work of Dieter Moebius. His late solo work holds some very exciting releases in store for us. While the predecessor *Tonspuren* was marked by an erratic lightness, an exhilarating sweetness in the elektrokraut style of NEU! and Harmonia, *Blotch* marks a late revival of the somewhat more oblique and experimental early work of Cluster.