

Metal Only

Das einzig WAHRE Metalradio im Netz!

Band: Skogen (S)
Genre: Black / Folk Metal
Label: Nordvis
Albumtitle: Svitjod
Duration: 62:32
Releasedate: 07.10.2016



As it's known, there are albums that only become accessible by listening more than once. Albums which must be given time for development, for otherwise they would not have any effect at all. With "Svitjod", which at most delighted me moderately during the first run, I thought I would have such a work lying in front of me once again. Unfortunately, even after several confrontations with the album I have to notice: The first impression has been strengthened.

With "Svitjod", the Swedish Black Metal trio Skogen rerelease its second album, originally released in 2011 and out of stock for a long time. While most bands would use such a rerelease to get their songs remastered or rerecorded, Skogen seem to leave the sound untouched in its rough originality. Even if the sound could be a bit more punchy here and there, the rough tone generally fits quite well to this kind of Metal, therefore it shall not be criticised by me. The weak point of the album is rather the music itself.

"Svitjod" offer an one-hour-portion of very angrily cracking Black Metal, sometimes enriched with acoustic insertions, mostly coming along with throttled speed, but nevertheless cold and war in its entireness. The opening song "Dighra Dödh" starts immediately and directly, solemn mid-tempo riffs and echoing growls are dominating this song, only within the refrains it gathers momentum with doublebase attacks and clean vocals. Musically quite nice, one cannot deny a certain epic, but all in all the heard is too arbitrary to really inspire the listener. Although riffs and melodies are stringing together well, they can be found within the repertoire of every second Black/Viking Metal band and are not able to unveil something unique within this album. Only with "Vinterriket" these guys created a hymnal and epic climax that maintain the atmosphere even in spite of its extra length and the excessive middle part. But then the enthusiasm is fading away again, and finally the album ends with a quite weak title track. Shortly before, "Daudaferd" emerges as a pure piano instrumental, which is appropriate to break with the prevalent monotony on the one hand, while on the other hand it does not fit into the concept at all.

Conclusion:

One can discuss about whether the resources have been used the best way with this rerelease. Over long distances, "Svitjod" can be described as stoic and inexpressive Black Metal that probably will not cause excessive storms of enthusiasm within most of the genre's supporters. Perhaps Skogen made progress since their second album but at the times of "Svitjod" there was much room for further development.

Rating: 3/10

Recommendation: Vinterriket

Weblink: <https://www.facebook.com/skogensweden>

Lineup:

Jocke Svensson - Vocals, Bass
Mathias Nilsson - Guitars, Vocals, Keyboard
Linus Larsson - Drums

Tracklist:

01. Dighra Dödh
02. Häxsabbat (Crimen Laesae Divinae Maiestatis)
03. Midnattens Glimrande Stillhet
04. Begraven
05. Vinterriket
06. Storm
07. Vansinnets Hemvist
08. Blodörnshämnd
09. Daudaferd
10. Svitjod

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