

Album: Sienná – Essence



Sienná

Essence

“Deep moodyblue electro experiences” are the game of Sienná, according to the artist herself. Truth is, **Essence**, her newest release, doesn’t really seem to encompass any of that completely, though gives the listener a unique style and approach nonetheless.

It’s probably to do with her background; at least, that’s what pretty much every source makes it out to be, in a pseudo Daily Mail-esque fashion, when you read about her online. Sienná is a Norway-based artist and composer from Kyoto, Japan, who uses her vocal and keyboard talents to craft some of the most unique music she can. Unique it most certainly is, despite the seemingly inaccurate self-diagnosis that it’s moody or blue.

What you essentially get is a couple of songs which really seem to play up to her Japanese background, notably ‘Zen’ (rather unsurprisingly) which embraces a mandolin and a fast WipEout 2097-style drum beat to pick up the pace. ‘Yugen-Mugen’ uses digital synth undertones to add to a lilting beat, pushing Vangelis-inspired auras of sound over the top, which are soothing enough though don’t really add any huge impact to a song that’s already a little too relaxed to really get into.

Some tracks seem to really push the house side of things, and it’s perhaps here where Sienná is at her strongest. ‘Precious!’ nails the genre, though you tend to put it to the back of your mind on the first listen as it’s the opening track and you expect much better to follow; it turns out that it remains the most memorable.

All-in-all, it’s definitely worth a try for people who like house music who are a little more intelligent than the stereotypical lover of said art, as it takes a little bit of patience and more selective hearing, as some of the tunes fall by the wayside almost entirely.

Others who enjoy Air, The Chemical Brothers’ earlier outings, the Future Sound of London or elements of Icelandic music such as that from Kippi, Bjork or Sigur Ros (particularly Riceboy Sleeps), will likely be able to get something out of this. With music like this, it’s easy to expect a lot and see them fall short. With a more open mind for the genre, some people could get a lot from this.

Essence is available now on Abon Records.

By **Matt Gardner**