

Defacement

Duality (2024)

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With an inception going back to the year 2019, Dutch entity Defacement rapidly gained momentum within the underground realms with two full-length records marked by an intense and experimental take on Death and Black Metal. Three long years after the latest output, the trio flares its cryptic head yet again with an epic tome of twisted and gnarly emanations, an immersive pathway into the void entitled "Duality". Standing as an auidial voyage plunging and transcending through borders, "Duality" is ever-challenging and confrontational in its invocation of primal forces lying dormant in the world below. Inspired by the unfathomable, shadowy corners of human existence, Defacement hatches a penetrating sonic journey, captivating and blistering from its very first note. Through a maelstrom of quasi-maniacal riffing, an electrical cascade bursts with urgency and virulence. Whether through fast sharp lacerations, blazing with tasteful details, heavy intricate outbursts, or dexterous melodies, the essence of Defacement never felt as complete, mesmerizing and alluring as in these unhallowed creations. Such traits find a perfect accomplice on the cold and experimental interludes entangled between tracks, halting moments that further the conceptuality of "Duality" and broaden the gist of the main songs. The tremendous rhythmic section, a complex and throbbing pulse of drumming fierceness and serpentine bass playing, is superiorly captured by the dynamic and organic production, a vigorous sound that evokes both an oppressive aura and wistful solemnity. On top of exquisite arrangements, a poignant voice bleeds its very heart in a gasping narrative, wailing, anguishing and roaring from a stygian abyss, portraying disenchanting tales of nightmarish essence with passion and exhilaration. "Duality" is as addictive as it is distressing, a vast landscape of sense and spirit, an ode to the dark night of the soul.