

The New York Times

September 1, 2005

The Watery Graves of Portland

Caracas

Marriage Records (marriagerecs.com)

Overview: Three friendly, baby kittens from the depths of Portland, Oregon - opting to leave the vocals back east and dedicate an album entirely to their individual instruments. Fronted by composer / pianist Curtis Knapp (master of disguise, FLETCH) and evened out with brush percussionist extraordinaire Adrian Orange (Thanksgiving) and D.L. Hooker [aka Davos] (A John Henry Memorial) plucking an upright bass, Watery Graves create music you could, indeed, sell ice to an Eskimo by. It's all housed in a hand-screened 12" jacket with copper and other special Periodic Table of Elements inking, weighted down by the jet-black ninja vinyl itself. While we're on the table of elements, *Caracas* is the follow-up to their previous cassette-only release *The Sea and Skies Above* that included a dazzlin' silver screened insert.

Caracas (as in Venezuela - not carcass, as in dead - though side A does include "dead body in the river" and this bands name does include 'graves') will navigate you through the seedless forest, upon which you will be kept safe and warm by the albums unbridled love. Things get serious on side B, when the trio invites Adam Forkner (all the bands you've loved before) to work it out on accompanying trumpet - this jam may be titled "scenic vista with a tropical fruit drink".

Known to improvise slightly live, the Watery Graves ask their listeners to compose notes while the band churns out the passion - and here they compiled a reproduced (via xerox-technology) collection of these letters.

Music to breathe by, to read & write by and to, exquisitely, die by:
Water Graves of Portland.

Moral: Three white men rowing is no better than an American in America.

- *kaleb sctas*