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artist : tiermes  
 title : malahvia  
 label : saaren levy  
 format : cdr  
 duration : 73'20  
 release date : 23.5.2005.  
 package : hand-finished cardboard case with tarpaper  
 and rope shield.

extras : large b/w poster with print on both sides.  
 status : 1st edition of 653 copies, currently available.  
 tracklist : nae  
 owe'r  
 kan

genre : ritual music, dark ambient



Malahvia, the latest effort in series of audio releases by the performance and music group Tiermes, is presented after six years of intense experimenting and research on the fields of ethno-pharmacology, -botany and ritual behavior during Fennoscandian prehistoric age.

As a result, not being only a piece of sonic art, Malahvia can also be considered as a fine example of modern archeology, through which an idea and feel of what is beyond all things mortal is intelligently forwarded closer to the level of everyday life and death.

Even if Malahvia, compared to the earlier releases, has a far more developed concept and sonic shape – it certainly is, as are all works by Tiermes, a strong manifestation on behalf of the use of sound as an instrument of transcendence.

The group's continuous devotion to create art through an experience, has proved to be the only way to find such essential emotions and dimensions that label the presence known as Tiermes. And as a present day example - Malahvia makes no exception.



#### Discography

**tiermes**  
*cd* . *Elfenblut . Misanthropy . UK 1996*  
**210**  
*lp* . *Freak Animal Records . Finland 1997*  
**777 – ra.ar.a.**  
*cdr* . *Ajna Offensive . Stephen O'Malley . US 1999*  
**malahvia**  
*cdr* . *Saaren Levy . Finland 2005*

#### Related releases

##### Temple Of Tiermes

**psychotropic substances**  
*lp* . *Kaos Kontrol . Finland*  
**delirium sadomaso**  
*cd* . *Freak Animal Records . Finland 2005*

#### Re releases

**210**  
*lp* . *Kaos Kontrol . Finland*  
**psychotropic substances**  
*cdr* . *Soulworm . Poland*

Words on release :

It's been several years since we last heard from Finland's mysterious drone ensemble Tiermes, and even then it was an ultra limited (100 copies) cd-r packaged with a sheet of rusted metal. So odds are a lot of folks have yet to discover the mystical black drone beauty of Tiermes. So at last here we have their only actual in-print cd release and it's nothing short of astounding.

Again lovingly hand packaged, this time the cd is housed in a thick cardstock sleeve, wrapped in an unbelievably gorgeous two sided poster (so ultra detailed and intense, very reminiscent of Nick Blinko's artwork for Rudimentary Peni), the whole thing wrapped in thick black paper and tied up with twine. A dark and mysterious package that perfectly reflects the music within.



Three lengthy tracks, the first, a glistening shimmer of minimal drone, like delicate layers made up of the overtones of struck bells or Tibetan bowls, a slowly radiating reverberation, that drifts and fades, like ripples in a black pond. The second track hints at Tiermes mainman Jussi Saivo's Finnish rock pedigree (early soundman for Circle, member of Circle side-project Ovakki as well as one half of Temple Of Tiermes with a member of Finnish doom band Unholy!) with ten minutes of ultra distorted electric bass, and a strange minimal squelchy rhythm, very Circular and hypnotic, the same figure repeated over and over. a gorgeous ultra simple meditation in dirge drone. Might hit the spot for adventurous SUNNO))) / Earth / Boris / Corrupted fans. The final track is a massive 40 minute track, or shimmering crystalline drone, very similar in makeup to the first track, but stretched even further out, with even more overtones and distant drones added to the mix as well as some strange minimal percussion.

A truly otherworldly ambience, darkly dreamy and absolutely lovely. As beautiful and breathtaking as anything by Chalk, Coleclough, Basinski, Mirror, Monos, Ora or any of our other favorite dronologists.

[www.aquariurecords.org](http://www.aquariurecords.org)

The Finnish trio has packaged its releases in rusted sheet metal, cloaked them in tar paper and tied them with rough twine. The music hidden beneath the materials is handled with an equally fetishistic devotion: either evenly spread or kept closely in tight confines. Titles are another thing altogether, name checking ruin and religion, people, place and custom, time and dust. Malahvia, a product of six years of fieldwork likely coupled with massive organic psychotropic intake, pulls all of these disparate qualities together, uniting them in sounds solid, liquid, haunting and fleeting.

Drones neither large nor small open the disc. A searing, breathing hum begins slow and rises imperceptibly, yawning wide, shaking sound from its well. Instrumentation is anyone's guess. Sounds akin to one's own physiological vibrations in the midst of a solitary stroll through the woods: senses bowed as cymbals; heart and lungs as hand drums thumped, slapped and tapped into shape. The effect is predictably entrancing as the sounds neither demand full attention nor function strictly on their own as peripheral noise. Seconds become minutes; minutes become a half-hour. Increased attention demands increased volume, which is a perfect time for the trio's fragile quiet to disgorge ritualistic riff and grind, tones torn from trees, rhythm rocked from tortoise shells, fallen limbs, dried deer shit. Closing the offering is a meditation on the first piece, enhanced to unrecognizable point. Percussive accents are flung out into the void; like wolf skulls crashed against rust-eaten scythes, the sounds collapse and clang and resist becoming a part of the drone's indifferent fabric.

Mystery makes Malahvia. Tiermes gives nothing but sound; it's up to the listener to construct the framework from which it flows. The process can be difficult, disturbing and rewarding, which is all anyone could really ask for.

By Stewart Voegtlin - [www.dustedmagazine.com/reviews/3145](http://www.dustedmagazine.com/reviews/3145)