

DER SOUND DER STILLE: PORTISHEADS »SILENCE«

Patrick Pahner

Abstract

The analysis of Portishead's track »Silence« (2008) – tries to interpret its numerous functional and semantic layers, e.g. temporal »confusion« achieved by a certain rhythmical ambiguity, the apparently fragmented lyrics, or the song's former name »Wicca« etc. The interaction of these layers evokes a complex auditive perception, which I characterise as a feeling of »cohesionless coherence«. Finally, »Silence«'s unique sound, which presumably can be described as a balancing act between high and low fidelity, is taken into further consideration.