



## PRESS

“Lovers of post-rock, post-black metal and the more experimental end of prog metal should investigate....The music of this duo from San Francisco is a vortex from Space Rock of Hawkwind brand, psychedelic influences and Ambient Shock therapy. Completely free of conventions, quite disturbing and at the same time fascinating”

- Metal Hammer

“As the unrelenting grip of stupidity tightens around America’s most hallowed institutions - churches, schools, legislatures... and the like - it’s hard not to notice that metal and its affinities just fucking keep getting smarter. Consider Lotus Thief’s Rervm - a beautifully crafted adaptation of Titus Lucretius Carus’ epic philosophical poem (and groundbreaking work of natural philosophy).”

- Decibel Magazine

“Let’s be honest: on paper Rervm sounds like it could be an exercise in intense, musical wankery. It’s a fusion of metal, space rock and ambient tones backing a translation-based retelling of a 1st century work by a Roman poet and philosopher. Read that again...but once the cynical scoffing has subsided, you’ll discover that this is an intoxicating and often beautiful record.”

- Kerrang!

“If anything, Lotus Thief’s debut ‘Rervm’ has achieved its desired distinction from Botanist’s hammered dulcimer-driven black metal - not to mention pretty much every other band out there. Spanning a wide spectrum of contrasting sounds such as space rock (especially Bezaelith’s ethereal vocals) and minimalist black metal, ‘Rervm’ isn’t easily defined, yet there’s a conscious thought paid to maintaining cohesion, both musically and thematically.”

- Terrorizer Magazine

“The music drives with power, but it’s driving the space lanes rather than any earthbound highway – a course

that become unmistakably clear with three minutes left, when the pistons stop and the song glides like a satellite in orbit, a cosmic dream unfolding.”

- No Clean Singing

“This is a fantastic album in the true spirit of the San Francisco music scene - left of centre, forward thinking and inspired - well worth forking out your money to hear this in its glory. Certainly an auspicious start to this fledgling band's career.”

- Cvlt Nation

“What if I said that Otrebor's perfectly cacophonous drumming and Bezaelith's vast and almost choral vocals envelope the widely differing musical elements in such a compelling way that, even weather you get it or not, you're going to be coming back to this record again and again over the next 11 months at least?”

- The Quietus

“The San Francisco bay area continues to prove itself a fruitful orchard of outside-the-box extreme music. Case in point, the debut album by this secretive duo...Rervm is a glimpse into an inviting and familiar musical landscape, but one that keeps revealing new surprises with each listen.”

- Invisible Oranges

“A warm post black metal sound is their starting point for slightly sludgy and groovy songs. Intricately structured, graced with often angelic sounding female vocals...”

- Lords of Metal

“Exploring a dynamic range so profound that sans headphones it's easy to assume play was curtailed between tracks, 'Rervm' is the blossoming of a tremendous marriage of minds.”

- Iron Fist

“Initially, my thought was “this is cool, but perhaps would benefit from an increased instrumental focus”, but this changed upon repeated listens. I will admit I'm not normally a fan of female vocals - I can't really articulate why, but dammit if the vocalist isn't incredible. All these interesting multi tracked harmonies and alternate lines, letting the guitars breathe, soaked in reverb, these fascinating incantations that consistently evoke all this sort of fascinating myst...ery and enigma. Atmosphere is a subjective term, I know that, but it is super applicable here, it's a very spacey, very deep album, bringing forth all those strange thoughts of creation and infinity and death and etc etc etc that's not all that different from when you stare at the night sky for a bit too long.”

- The Sleeping Shaman

“The music drives with power, but it's driving the space lanes rather than any earthbound highway — a course that become unmistakably clear with three minutes left, when the pistons stop and the song glides like a satellite in orbit, a cosmic dream unfolding.

I'm not even going to try to classify the music in genre terms. When you hear it, maybe you'll understand why. And it would be equally pointless to force the other

songs into pigeonholes — they would wriggle free. You'll see.”

- No Clean Singing , 2014 Most Infectious Extreme Metal List

“ if I tell you that Rervm is a translation based retelling of 'De Rerum Natura' (or 'On The Nature Of Things') by the 1st century BC Roman poet and philosopher Titus Lucretius, set to a musical score that sounds something like what Hawkwind would've produced if Dave Brock had attended the Darmstadt school in the time of Olivier Messiaen, then that sounds like an answer on fucking University Challenge, and you might wonder what place Lotus Thief have in this column... But, what if I was to tell you that, in fact, Lotus Thief are a duo comprised of Botanist's Otrebor and his one-time touring bassist Bezaelith - who you might remember also lent her exceptional musical talents to the collaborative second disc of Botanist's Doom In Bloom - and that the six tracks of Rervm seamlessly and serenely ebb and flow between moments of spaced-out, blackened doom, gently penetrating ambience and blissful field recordings? What if I said that Otrebor's perfectly cacophonous drumming and Bezaelith's vast and almost choral vocals envelope the widely differing musical elements in such a compelling way that, even weather you get it or not, you're going to be coming back to this record again and again over the next 11 months at least?...”

- The Quietus

“To be honest, though, I connected with this album on a more emotional level. I got my hands on the promo a day before going in for surgery, so I was in a bit of a distracted state before and after. At the risk of sounding melodramatic, Bezaelith's vocals on this album were a major comfort to me in the hours immediately before and after the actual operation. They're cleanly sung, and she often harmonizes with a veritable chorus of other Bezaeliths. If you can listen to the opening vocal lines of "Aeternvm" without your heart melting at least a little, I don't know what to do with you. It's made all the more satisfying when the subtle underlying percussion suddenly bursts into furious Otreborian blasting immediately after.”

- Metal Bandcamp

“Fully comprehending the multifaceted concept of this grandiose collection is not essential to taking pleasure from the songs herein as these deeply emotive compositions are supported by an outstanding vocal performance which lures you into its vespertine grasp.

‘Miseras’ bedrock of visceral blastbeats seems an odd foundation on which to build cinematic ethereal textures, yet somehow the duo manage to make this make complete sense. Fashioning a rich tapestry of subtle melodies and haunting ambience, this album dares tread a ground where few heavy bands dare inhabit. “Oh wretched minds, oh blinded hearts” croons Bezaelith. This seductive chanteuse possesses an eerie ability to conjure transcendent beauty in a manner few, save Jex Thoth, are able to muster. Lush arrangements are gracefully realised eloquently and make for stimulating listening with or without the highbrow concept behind it. The hypnotic voice of Bezaelith works wonders, conjuring many emotions on this esoteric journey into the beyond.”

- Ghost Cult Magazine

“The album kicks off with the heavy riffing of “Aeternvm” creating a very hypnotic passage that is later complemented with brilliant atmospheric elements and female vocals. The drumming still has that Botanist edge to it, but it is far less chaotic and fits the music perfectly. There are some trippy atmospheric sounds here and there that nicely complement the atmosphere of this track. Things pick up with “Miseras”

and its Sludge/Alt-Rock vibe, showing a different side of the band while retaining its atmospheric uniqueness.

Moving into Psychedelic/Space Rock territories, “Discere Credas” is one of our favorite tracks in this release thanks to the trippy music and raspy female vocals. This track also has a certain Ameseours vibe that instantly engaged us. Things keep getting better with the Doomy “LvX”, a song that reminded us of Jex Thoth meets Theater of Tragedy (Aegis-era). The experimental “Discordia” pushes the limits a bit when trying new things while still fitting cohesively with the rest of the release.

“Rervm” closes with the Sludgy/Post-Metal “Mortalis”, a track filled with fuzzy riffs and some creepy whispers. In general, Lotus Thief has managed to deliver one of the most interesting releases of 2014 and we are glad we gave them a chance even after featuring (all) the members of Botanist, heck, we might even give Botanist a new try. If you are looking for an engaging female-fronted release that will catch you off-guard and will keep you guessing, look no further and pick up a copy of this solid release.”

- Infernal Masquerade

“utterly beautiful, distorted stoner rock.”

- Doom-Metal.com

Rervm is an album of heavy psychedelic rock, of some variety. Since I don’t listen to a whole lot of psychedelic rock, I can’t tell you whether it treads new ground or not. In a couple of places (“LvX” and “Mortalis”) it reminds me somewhat of Crippled Black Phoenix, but simultaneously heavier and less Earthbound. The tracks hover around the eight-minute mark, and sometimes attempt to induce a trance in a way that’s a second-cousin to what some ambient black metal bands attempt. But some of these riffs are so great they will wake you right up. Check “Miseras” especially, which threatens to go in a balls-out rock direction a la Red Fang, but doesn’t forget what it’s really here to do.

The sound is deliciously raw but powerful, with more than its share of bass. And the female vocals are a nice touch, sometimes spacy but always swaggering.

The jewel case sticker version of this story is: Heavy Psych-Rock with Swagger. I recommend it for those who might enjoy mental space travel, but always want a rocking riff.”

- Full Metal Attorney

“Writing Lotus Thief off as just another post-black metal band, however, would be a grave mistake. Elements of the genre certainly do exist on Rervm, their debut album, but serve as more of a creative launch point than a genre template or set of stylistic rules. This presents an album that’s as sprawling and varied as the story it tells, and one that seamlessly blends genres into a greater whole. The one constant are the ethereal,



beautiful female vocals layered atop the varied instrumentation.”

- Heavy Blog is Heavy

"great guitar work"

- Doomantia

“Putting on a record and having an experience you don’t anticipate and don’t know initially how to process can be an enthralling thing. With so many things today sounding so similar and records seeming to bleed into one another no matter the style, a record making your hairs stand on end and drink in every detail is a godsend...This album is cinematic, sonically gigantic, and a true inspiration for those of us who love when a record transports us somewhere unexpected. “Rervm” does that every time you visit, and hopefully this is just the start of things for Lotus Thief. I can’t get over how much fun I have listening to this thing, and the fact that it’s based in so much more than sound makes the music something you can examine over and over and always come away with new ideas and ways to improve the section of Earth you inhabit.”

- Meat Mead Metal

“beautiful n’ bewildering majesty”

- New Noise Magazine

"The duo's debut is a retelling of On the Nature of Things by 1st century BC Roman poet and philosopher Titus Lucretius Carus, set to what could be tagged occult prog-goth - subtly ornamented and delicate, misleadingly disembodied, and not hell-bent on strictly sounding all witchy and shit."

- Zero Tolerance Magazine

“Imagine a post rock Clannad, but with balls...it’s one helluva beautiful offering.”

- Metalmouth

“When someone usually says their music blends a range of styles, it leaves doubt in my mind. However, judging from this song, I think Rervm is going to be an important album.”

- Satan’s Music Box

“There are several ways to explore the great ambition of this first effort. As an album the production quality was superb. The musicianship was excellent, made even more so by the fact this was a two person effort. The vocals were pitch-perfect, expertly produced and suited the particular nature of the piece. As an adaptation of a poem it certainly attempts to be as faithful as possible and given that it has to take 7400 lines and turn it into six seven minute songs, it manages to distill the core elements of the text. This album is excellent irrespective of one’s knowledge of the original text, at once contemporary and



reverential to the classics, and very much worth a listen, in the knowledge that you are unlikely to hear anything else quite like this.”

- Get Your Rock Out, UK

“This band creates an equally fascinating as well as complex and difficult to access work that is likely to be discovered only by a handful of listeners. Maybe "Rervm" at the end is too special, too challenging or engaging - there are many different ways to discover it and to approach it. Both as a direct link with the literary original, as well as a mere musical experience, one can see "Rervm's" mindset. However one who takes the time and gets involved in this ambitious work, will be surprised with ever-new details. In short: a listener "Rervm" hears everything needed in this album of such a shock and rewards. The very good production, the talent on the instruments, the good singing of Bezaelith and the potential to drive away from the music with the substance of *De Rerum Natura*, makes "Rervm" a winner”

- CDStarts.de (trans)

"progressive, hook-laden and rocked-out 70s guitar leads, electronic sprinkles, feral speed bursts, doom-y bluesy low-end, and haunting female vocals; a song that I might enjoy more than anything off of the first disc."

- Hellride Music

“A translation-based retelling of *De Rerum Natura* (or *On the Nature of Things*) by the Roman poet and philosopher Titus Lucretius Carus (1st century BC), San Franciscan duo Lotus Thief's craft is one of mystery and mysticism. A melting pot of psychedelic rock, space rock, metal, and ambient, Rervm is more - much more - than what those petty genre tags can ever attempt to capture. Compositionally and instrumentally, Otrebor and Bezaelith (both of Botanist) prove to be an exceptional pairing. Between seven and nine minutes long, each of the six tracks is a world, a universe of its own. Ever-evolving, the structures, the dynamics, and the textures within each of them is organic, each an intricate part of something much bigger than the track, the album, and its creators. Expansive, emotive, evocative, and endlessly captivating, no doubt in part to the beautiful production, the album has an inviting warmth to it that gives it a depth into which it is all-the-easier to succumb to. Graced with angelic airs, esoteric depths, and a rich sonic diversity, this is a more-than-impressive debut from a band that we should hope to hear more from.”

- The Midlands Rocks

“The gothy, slightly doom-ish air maintains throughout, the vocals ethereal, reverberations of the haunting melodies of SubRosa here and there. Your mind wanders to Ides of Gemini, or perhaps Royal Thunder as potential pointers of where this lies, but it is in the jittery, slightly off-kilter moments of recording, such as at the start of *Discordia*, that it removes itself a step from the norm. Artistically conjured, Rervm has a mesmeric gravitas owed to it by its off centre approach to even the most standard of tracks that ensures this is an utterly compelling and enthralling release.”

- NineHertz

"shimmery shoegaze-influenced  
psychedelia"

- Metal Blast

“From San Francisco comes Lotus Thief, a doom/space rock/ambient duo who find themselves on the ever capable Svart Records roster, and

seeing as how unusual this band is, it's the perfect home for them. Rervm is the band's debut, and it's a wildly exploratory collection of music, at times even quite puzzling. The duo is comprised of Bezaelith and Otrebor, and both also play in Botanist, but Lotus Thief is meant to be looked at and treated as a completely separate entity. Labeling themselves 'text metal', Lotus Thief are looking to 'pass along the knowledge of superlative ancient texts' with their lyrics, and this debut as actually a 'translation-based retelling of De Rerum Natura (or On the Nature of Things) by the Roman poet and philosopher Titus Lucretius Carus, 1st century BC'. Do you care? Well, it matters not if you don't choose to closely follow the story here, as the music is pretty damn impressive, as hefty doom/post rock riffing collides with Hawkwind styled synth passages and haunting female vocals for a sound that is quite unique.”

- Sea of Tranquility

“Just as Deafheaven perfectly combined beautiful sound and black metal last year, so does Lotus Thief accomplish similar - in its own way.”

- Visions Magazine, Germany (trans.)

“ If I were a golden dragon, I think I would shit this album in a big pile of rainbow-colored diarrhea.”

- Imperium, Finland (trans.)

“It's not often when picturing San Francisco that your brain offers up a score to said picturing that encapsulates in its vast realms the low down depths of doom rock, the ambitious highs of space rock, the intricate details of progressive metal, the atmospheric spaciousness that comes from a little triple twist of ambient, goth, and black metal. Then again, maybe it does, I've never been to San Francisco apart from through the words and photos of my parents' somethingth anniversary trip there. They didn't paint quite the scene fitting such a soundtrack, but San Franciscan duo Lotus Thief - Bezaelith and Otrebor -offer up that epic score with their debut album Rervm. It's big, it's bad, it's here to take universal control, and damn your soul, but it'll sound awesome doing so.”

- Cultured Vultures

“Doom rock is seldom so enchanted, so woven through with dark magic and melodies from the other side. Lotus Thief usher in a magical new era with "Rervm". "Rervm" is one of those rare albums that you only see coming when it hits you right between the eyes. The credit goes to Lotus Thief, a duo from the erstwhile hippie capital of the world San Francisco who have painted an evocative and ghostly picture of the city they know so well in six long pieces of music. The pair draw upon psychedelic rock, slow doom, clattering black metal and spacey post rock desolation, go for floating, monotonous and trance-like, ethereal female vocals and mix in the power of dissonance. Like\_Jefferson Airplane on some really black doom trip. Beautiful stuff: fragile and elegiac, yet also threatening, disturbing and like something from another world. "Miseras" is slow and under the influence of a gravitational pull from an unknown source while "Discere Credas" is ominous, mighty and rocks. A walk in the gap between two worlds, a masterpiece of doom-laden rock that should not be missed.”

- ArtistXite, Germany (trans.)

“An evocative surprise...please more of it”

- Rock Hard, Germany (trans.)

“Lotus Thief has its work cut out following Arborist but 'Nymphaea Carulea' is an excellent post-rock black metal fusion piece combining a rapid rhythm, a raw guitar sound, smooth lead guitar drones and shoegaze

shimmer that recalls aspects of Caina and Alcest. Unexpected toughness and crunch coming hard on the softer melodic passages make this a highlight on the disc."

- The Sound Projector

"An epic metal opus, based on ancient Roman philosophical verse - Spinal Tap levels of hubris and folly, right? Well, no, as it turns out. Rervm is rather good. Pulling from doom, ambient and slowcore stylings, with more than a few nods towards the spaced-out shimmer of nu-psych, San Francisco's Lotus Thief pull no punches in their sonic vastness. Inevitably bombastic - well, it is based on Lucretius' De Rerem Natura - this thoroughly impressive debut transcends the supposedly-ugly facets of crushingly heavy music."

- The Skinny

"Svart Records have made a name for themselves this year by releasing some of 2014's coolest albums, and Lotus Thief's debut is right up there with the best of them. A psychedelic, riff-fuelled voyage across the astral plain, Rervm draws from Hawkwind's space rock, plus black metal, doom and ambient, and is enthralling throughout... given the pedigree of Lotus Thief's members (Botanist's Bezaelith and Otrebor) you'd expect it to be. With Lotus Thief's trippy vibe, creepy album artwork and stated aim of resurrecting ancient stories, the duo could easily be lumped into the exploding 'occult rock' scene. However there's far more to songs like Discere Credas and Miseras than a few recycled Sabbath riffs and a retro production - this San Francisco act are a unique proposition, and although they nod to rock's past, they're not chained to it. A late contender for debut of the year? You bet."

- Rush On Rock

"tripped-out psychedelia"

- Splice Today

"Welcome to the birth of Philosophic Metal...Who needs therefore a worthy alternative to the often infantile puppet theater in Black Metal and also happens to be standing on musical peak of experiences, is sure to be more than satisfied with the duo of Frisco."

- Laut.de (trans.)



"Between the duo's work in dulcimer-and-eco-terrorism, metal surrealists Botanist and the Latin texts running through the lyric sheet, Lotus Thief's debut could easily have fallen foul of over-ambition. What emerges on the six compositions that make up Rervm however is a diverse, sprawling sound that works just fine without the conceptual props: treating black metal as more of a 'you are here' marker than a generic straightjacket, they alight on the shoegaze, ambient and post-rock influences acts like Alcest have brought to the sound, but expand

even further out into distinctly un-metal territory. The sheer amount of sound Lotus Thief try and fit into each song can leave them feeling over-stuffed, but Rervm still succeeds as a bold, thrilling debut."

- Narc Magazine

"dreamy Post-Doom/Rock with Lotus Thief (one of the best tracks here), slow ritual Doom/Death with Cult Of Linnaeus, gothically inclined Doom with Bestiary and Doom-infused Folk with Arborist... The idea is good, the result is great. I've discovered 5 new interesting bands, some of them I'll gladly recommend and will support (mostly Lotus Thief : I didn't even know the existence of the band before)."

- Temple of Perdition

"Rervm is an incredibly well written album, heartfelt and just truly remarkable... if I had heard this album a few more times and had more time to give to it, Rervm could very well be up the top end of the list, it's an eclectic mix of sparse ambient moments interspersed with some epic black metal and doom, it's a really interesting album and I think I'll be listening to it a lot more in the coming months."

- The Metalithic

"totally awesome"

- Anti-Gravity Bunny

"Everything about 'Rervm' is considered, articulate and magnificently realised. As long as the concept doesn't prove to be too 'highbrow' for them to connect with a wider audience, Lotus Thief should, by rights, be massive."

- Whisperin and Hollerin

"The most unusual aspect of " Rervm " is not the quite successful instrumental foundation, but the vocal component: singer Bezaelith uses its foundation to build up layers, some of which take over the function of an organ - this creates a beautiful impression of a choir, which lies just above the modulating more diverse metallic skeleton. Cool approach, especially since the timbre of the lady is very pleasant and fairly well integrated into the music."

- Metal.de, Germany (trans.)

"An evocative surprise."

- Legacy Magazine, Germany (trans.)

"Those of you who like to dabble in more left field musical arts might be familiar with Botanist. Next to that artistic outlet, the San Francisco based dynamic duo of Bezaelith and Otrebor, have instigated a new entity called Lotus Thief. Their goal is to bring back to life ancient texts. In the case of their debut album, it concerns De Rerum Natura (on the Nature of things) by the Roman poet/philosopher Titus Lucretius Caro in which he seeks to debunk the fear of divinity and death through rational reasoning. Like the book itself, the record is divided into six chapters and explores its content via lengthy incursions into space rock, shoegaze and The Gathering like metal. The ethereal, otherworldly vocals are dreamy but still warm and intimate. A genuinely unique record. Highly recommended."



- Darkview, Belgium

“astonishingly beautiful”

- Sonic Seducer, Germany (trans.)

“It is not possible to trace a song by song route : You must listen to "Rervm" in full, from the spring to the outlet like a musical river. That's the only way to enjoy the job of those two american musicians, that in my opinion have hit the target with their first album. I would definitely recommend "Rervm" to all the lovers of unusual music, to everyone appreciate complicated and not-standard albums : you will see that you will find yourself at ease...”

- Heavy Metal Webzine, Italy (trans.)

“There are a lot of instruments here too- keys, guitars, bass, acoustic drums, electronic effects... it is not a kitchen sink approach, though. It all has its place and increases the breadth and depth of the album- exactly what a record like this should aspire to. By turns the music is fierce, mellow, droning and even hummable. Lotus Thief has made an unusual album, no doubt about it. While it will not be to everyone's tastes, I urge you to give it a try. It melds elements of black metal, post metal, psych, space rock and even folk to weave an intricate pattern. It's panoramic in scope and feel and well worth your time. Cool cover art too!”

- The Sludgelord

“It is not only the profound concept, but also the music of the band itself, which may not easily reveal itself to the listener. Lotus Thief namely plays a distinctive sound that draws from many sources. Here you find elements of dark psychedelic rock as well as post rock soundscapes. The hardness of the metal meets harmonious beautiful sound. This sounds on the one hand is pretty shoegaze moderately introverted, only to then change the atmosphere with hideous destructive-sounding raids of Black Metal. Generally, the atmosphere is crossed by a clear occult flair.”

- Music and Such, Germany (trans.)

“ I guess, unless we want to get into some serious reading we'll just have to take their word for that, eh? Besides it's all about the music and Lotus Thief refer to themselves as 'text metal', and they might as well do because you'd be hard pressed to find an existing musical label that describes them adequately. Part doom metal, part ambient, part prog, part pop. What they conjure up on 'Rervm' is curious to say the least.”

- Uber Rock

“...'Rervm' is not of the easiest dishes. But if you give it a chance, you will discover the dark beauty behind the music, and the

songs carry the listener over pretty bleak musical landscapes. The dirty guitars, intense drumming and fast black metal outbursts, blend nicely with the synthesizer, melodic riffs, effects and clean female vocals, thereby offering those who have open musical horizons, 48 minutes of beautiful music.”

- Rock Overdose, Greece (trans.)



“Whatever the process behind the construction of Rervm, wherever they got their ideas from, whoever let them into that Roman crypt, the thing that you hear on this record is so flawlessly determined and magnificently deliberate that it’s hard to believe how new and experimental it is...This isn’t music that dilutes metal with influence from another genre or looks beyond metal’s boundaries for some means of escape from tradition. It is music that transforms and evolves what metal is, by going deeper. This is metal because it subverts. This is metal because it defies. This is metal because it descends. You don’t so much listen to Rervm as fall through it. A lot of metal is scary because it sounds like it’s trying to kill you. Lotus Thief isn’t scary for any reason so trivial. They’re scary because it sounds like they’re going to change you.”

- Metal Reality

## Interviews:

*Decibel Magazine*

*Terrorizer Magazine*

*Zero Tolerance Magazine*

*Visions Magazine*

*The Midlands Rocks*

*Iron Fist Magazine*

*KFJC Radio*

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