

## SOLEIL NOIR COGITO « Présence Illusoire» par SOLEIL NOIR

Cogito is a side-project of Ex Nihilo, the one-man band of Laine Gebel, a reclusive and secret ultra-goth Swiss ermit not unlike Anna Varney / Sopor Aeternus, who lives in isolation somewhere on the Western-Switzerland countryside. Ex Nihilo was created in 1997 and, beside a contribution to the Swiss "Darklife" compilation, issued two autoproduced albums and one EP, lots of demos, a video and even a best-of. Everything can be ordered on its website. Since 2000, Ex Nihilo is divided in three separate concepts: Ex Nihilo itself for the electro-industrial stuff, Cicerone as a "dark trip-hop" outfit, and Cogito is described as "dark ambient with martial rythmic patterns".

Cogito first demo can thus be compared to projects like Von Thronstahl (but much less wagnerian), Sophia or The Moon Lay Hidden Beneath A Cloud : essentially instrumental, with a few samples and whispered vocal parts in French ; very dark, gothic electro-symphonic stuff. The sounds are very synthetic, a bit too much for my tastes, but the compositions are good. If Laine would do some live appearances he might gain a quick following among the goth community. (Lars K)