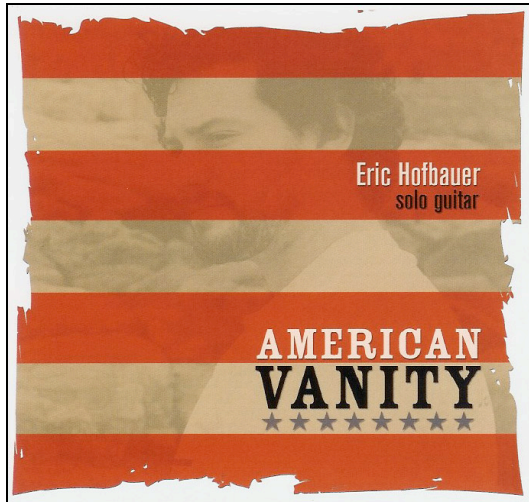


AMERICAN VANITY

Eric Hofbauer • solo guitar



"Best Debut 2004" – All About Jazz-NY

☆☆☆☆ - All Music Guide

"This might sound like heavy baggage to heap upon a relatively 'new' name, but this Eric Hofbauer fellow may be the heir to the avant-Americana throne" - Mark Keresman, (jazz review.com)

"Using hefty fingerstyle chops... (Eric) weaves bebop phrases, discrete bass lines, prepared guitar, dissonance, and fragmented improvisation into a cool and unique personal statement" - Gary Lee Joyner (Acoustic Guitar Magazine)

"His acute irreverence is powerful and expertly judged." - Philip Clark (The Wire)

(Excerpts from liner notes) - **American Vanity** explores the many faces of hubris in American culture, and society. At first, America's bloated egotism and its' presumptuous smug attitude, reoccurring themes in the history of our politics and culture, was plenty of material to get my blood boiling and the project started. The real challenge was to dig deeper, and realize that vanity just may be a corner stone of the American way... Excessive egotism, however, suggests emptiness, that some argue has damaged our culture...and we get dragged from fad to fad...along the way, some innovative gems of "Americana" become more than just passing fancies, but instead offer us a glimpse into a time that was or a time that is or even can be. My goal is to mine for these "gems", both in recording and live settings, through improvisation, composition and re-interpretation.

Hofbauer, who has been called "an extraordinary guitarist" by Rob Spencer of Cadence Magazine is also active in other jazz projects. Eric is also a member of the Blueprint Project, whose 2004 self titled debut recording featured bassist Cecil McBee and drummer Matt Wilson, and inspired Coda's James Hale to call the group "not only a meeting of the minds but a communion of the soul." He performs with the Shrimpton/Hofbauer Duo and Charlie Kohlhas's Explorer's Club (formerly the CK5) voted "Best of Boston, Local Jazz 2003". Eric frequently tours in the US and has performed internationally, including the North Sea Jazz Festival. Eric has performed with Han Bennink, Cecil McBee, James Moody, Gunther Schuller, Muhal Richard Abrams, Garrison Fewell and Matt Wilson.

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