

**LOCKGROOVE****4****Sleeping On Elephant Fog**

Boston psych group explore outer (and inner) space.

Often favorably compared to brain-fryers like Spiritualized, Spaceman 3 and a heavy Galaxie 500, this Boston-area quintet caused a minor stir with their 1998 debut EP, *Rewired*, for its trancey minimalism and hypnotic psych rock. With *Sleeping On Elephant Fog*, their debut full-length, the group continue their journey through space, powered by psych ("19 Years"); straight-forward, polished rock ("Engine Drone"); and Beatlesque, '60s Brit pop ("Siren James").

But for all their space traveling, Lockgroove aren't cold, inhuman shoegazers. The band feature a delicate sonic palette splattered with the same colors used by fellow New Englanders New Radiant Storm King, and wafts of Lou Barlow's sensitive-guy voice float through certain tracks ("Chinese New Year," for example).

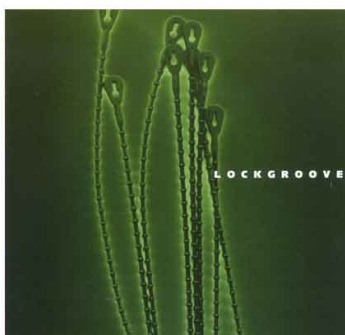
While current psychedelic popsters and space rockers exhume the Beach Boys, Syd Barrett or the bones of other long-extinct dinosaurs, Lockgroove look more to the future. The 20-minute album closer "Never Satisfied" shifts from a driving riff to jolting, feedback stutters and ambient noise then finally to majestic rock excursions. Like a spaceship coasting then breaking apart after its powerful thrusters have given out, only to be sucked into a black hole, the song—like some of the best psychedelia—is both uplifting and frightening. Lockgroove are undeniably something special. (**Krave, 442 3rd Ave. #18, New York NY 10016**) *Eric Benschel*

RATINGS

5	INDISPENSABLE
4	OUTSTANDING
3	GOOD
2	MEDIOCRE
1	WRETCHED

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LOCKGROOVE**Sleeping On The Elephant Fog Krave**

Twin brothers Martin and Ryan Rex do not disavow the notion that they share a sort of womb-wired musical telepathy, and the long-overdue debut album by their quintet—which released a minor masterpiece of an EP, *Rewired*, in 1998—at times seems to bear the fingerprint of some unseen hypnotist's hand. On *Rewired* they established themselves as the heirs to the elegant, elliptically dreamy legacy left by fellow Bostonians Galaxie 500, but also to the sprawling, majestic feedback-drone suites of Spacemen 3. And over the sweeping course of *Sleeping's* 67 minutes, the band both expands and contracts its

scope, pulling the grainy, Byrdsian acid-folk of "Slow Motion Ocean" into sharp focus, and on the 20-minute closer "Never Satisfied," chasing a single chord through cascading turbulence and endless on-the-spot revision. Whether building a somber moment out of piano and drum machine on "Chinese New Year," or working "Blues And Reds" from sleepy shimmer into pulverizing rave-up, there's a guiding emotional and melodic authority keeping their astral projections on track. As massive and ambitious as *Sleeping* is, its brilliance is mostly a product of that simplicity—in well-crafted songs infused with the spirit of casual and persistent reinvention.

>>> Carly Carioli

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02 LOCKGROOVE *Sleeping on the Elephant Fog* (Krave) The latest psychedelic revival is swirling in New England, where Lockgroove's Martin and Ryan Rex have spearheaded Deep Heaven, an annual multimedia mind-blower of a festival that nods to days of acid tests past. Sounding like they've sampled a few tabs themselves, the band create dense cosmic symphonies with layers of head-feeding noise. Think fellow Bostonians Galaxie 500 with jams, but not the Phish-like noodle kind. Good thing too, because Ben & Jerry's "Lockgroove" doesn't sound too tasty. **ERIK HIMMELSBACH**

SPIN MARCH 2000 >>
