

## Alexander Tucker

### Portal (ATP)

The number of freeform acoustic/electric psych guitar freaks seems to grow with time. Alexander Tucker's latest effort, *Portal*, ranks among his best in this vein – if he has not fully reached the awe-inspiring heights of partial role model Flying Saucer Attack, the combination of his light, tripped-out singing of straightforward melodies and overlay of drones and textures is still very strong. From the stately opener 'Poltergeists Grazing' to the closing 'Here', soft vibes matching the acoustic work before the vocal chants and crumbling feedback settle in. His swooning disorientation on songs like 'Omnibaron' and 'Another World' is that of a careful, formal performer – he sounds lost in a haze but not driven to an edge, and his guitar work hints at everything from Led Zeppelin's most stately to My Bloody Valentine's most cryptic, which is no bad place to be.

**Ned Raggett**