

# THE VINYL *District*

## Graded on a Curve: New in Stores for October 2020, Part Six

By Joseph Neff  
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**NEW RELEASE PICK: Judith Hamann, *Shaking Studies & Music for Cello and Humming* (Blank Forms Editions)** Released conjointly on October 30 (though there might be pressing plant delays), *Shaking* (on LP) and *Humming* (on CD) comprise Australian cellist Hamann's debut as a soloist, though she has recorded with Tashi Wada, Graham Lambkin, Alvin Lucier, and Rosalind Hall. Knowledge of those names will clue one in to Hamann's boldly experimental bent; suffice to say that lovers of the drone will want to get acquainted with these sets (she has worked La Monte Young and Marian Zazeela), even as the titles make clear that Hamann's thematic focus for both releases goes beyond "simple" elevated note extension. Far beyond. The abundance of cello on these

albums also strengthens connections to the classical avant-garde, though as the label points out, Hamann is consistently resisting "chamber music orthodoxy." *Shaking's* relation to its titular action is subtle but discernible; *Humming* spreads out to nearly 80 minutes and, due to the human need to breathe, is rife with pauses, strategically executed. **A**

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