

Interview with Ex-Nihilo

1) *In your bio, I see that Ex-Nihilo was founded in 1998, with a demo tape and other things, and now a CD album called « Visions ». How would you describe the music of Ex-Nihilo with your own words ?*

- **My music has a very special and personal style, I don't limit myself to a particular style ! In exemple, the album « Visions » is very eclectic, it goes from ambient to indus, and two of the songs have trip-hop influences. The forthcoming single is much more based on trip-hop and I go more and more into that direction (but always in a gloomy atmosphere, with industrial elements !). It is very hard to label my musical style.**

2) *Where does the name « Ex-Nihilo » come from ?*

- **Ex Nihilo means « out of nowhere » in latin ; this expression suits me well, because when I go into town to buy things, or else, people look at me as if they have seen a ghost (It ain't easy to bear an extreme dressing style daily !)**

3) *You are interested in a number of bands such as The Cure, Das Ich, Christian Death and Portishhead (to name but a few). What band do you think influenced you the most ?*

- **I don't inspire myself from a particular band. Some years ago I would have probably made Cure-like music, but I discovered other bands in different styles of dark music and trip-hop music.**

4) *Originally there was three members in the band, but now Ex-Nihilo is principally Laine-how did the music evolve since then ?*

- **In the beginning of the project it was quite special, we where 4 and we talked, we smoked, we had great fun. Later we were only 3 left, and we succeeded in making a song : it can be found on a swiss compilation (Darklife compilation 1), it is called « Ave Tenebrae ». It was made in two days, in a very minimalistic style and mostly very messy. I would like to work on it again in my way, I will probably be more satisfied of it. Now that I'm alone I work much on the sound, I try to use other instruments, and that allows me to create my own sounds. I don't use « preset » sounds in my music, I create all by myself. I'm very happy to work alone, but I like to associate temporarily other people in the project.**

6) *Did you often play live ?*

-**No, there wasn't any live performance from Ex-Nihilo yet. It's hard because I want to do a new breed of concerts, different than what we see too often. I'll make an ambient videoclip for each song and we would play these clips on a screen, with a good lightshow, to boost the general atmosphere. There would be also choreographies with an extreme outfit, with several other people. It would be more a theatrical performance than a concert ; I would prepare different remixes of my songs, especially for the shows ; Music would be pre-recorded, and we would occupy ourselves only of the visual part.**

I think it would be a good idea, because the audience of such a show would have new versions of the songs, different than what they can hear on the CD's, and we would have 100% of our capacities to do a good performance, synchronized with the music. Of course, the clips and choreographies would be directly related to the songs.

That's how I see the future as for the live shows, but to achieve that I need financial support.

7) *Is there a concept behind Ex Nihilo ?*

- Yes there is a concept. My musical project is related to the utopical project « Phénicia ». The goal of this project is to bring together the people who are rejected from society, all the excentrics, all those who are noticing that at the moment everything isn't really funny on Earth (because of Humanity)... There will always be people who will respond « You're paranoid ! Stop painting anything black ! You ain't gonna change the World ! » Of course those people can't see a thing because they own too much money, which makes people stupid... That type of people will never do anything. But all great realisations were, in the beginning, utopias.

The lyrics of Ex Nihilo are very dark, but must be understood as warning signals, which means stop, let's take time to meditate on the ending of this century, that brought more and more crimes, mental illnesses and hate, to not pursue in the path of ignorance and stupidity like we do. For more details on all this, and if you want to team with people who think in this manner, you can visit the Ex Nihilo website (www.sealonia.com/Ex_Nihilo), and click on « Project Phénicia » (it is worth the ride !)

8) *What is the musical scene of your country like ? Is there a style more popular than another ?*

-Huuuuuuuuuh !!! For the youth, the more popular styles in Switzerland are commercial techno and hip-hop ; for the older ones, it is trumpet and accordion !! Of course let's not forget The Spice Girls and Celine Dion, yeah ! Aaaaaargh !

9) *On what future projects are you working on ?*

-At the moment I work a lot on my next album. I also prepare the release of my single « Après Le Chaos », for January 2000. I also work with a photographer to the making of an poetry book, illustrated with his photographs, there will be soon some extracts on the Ex Nihilo website. And of course, new ideas for the Phénicia project !

10) *What are your aspirations and dreams for the future ?*

-My dream is to own my label with which I could seriously work (I already own a « virtual » label, which distributes my music only on the Internet, and of course doesn't pay any registration fee or whatever). I quite need a good distribution for my CD's, and above all I need people with which I can establish a trustful relation. Without a label, I'm in the financial incapacity to give a form to my ideas. Art is my only goal in life, and I would like to do something great. I would also compose soundtracks for movies, it must be very exciting to hear your own music into a movie.

11) *And in conclusion ?*

-Visit my website for more information, and if you do have questions do not hesitate to contact me, by e-mail or by snail mail, it will be my pleasure to answer you. I want to thank Dzyan Magazine to have interviewed me.

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