

Ex-Nihilo

Vassago the mighty prince of Ex-Nihilo gave me the opportunity to ask some questions, regardless of the language barrier, this is what he had to say!

Can you tell me a bit about Ex-nihilo as ways of introduction to people that don't know of you?

Ex nihilo started in 1998 with a singer, a drummer, a sound engineer and a pianist, the project was to be of the Dark_Wave-Electro style. The project with several people did not last, and Ex nihilo was really formed with 2 people from 1998-1999, me and the sound engineer. Then since 1999, I managed all the following albums SEN solo (I undertook the 12 following albums and the 6 Slaps of A to Z). (Except some Remixes and Covers with other underground groups coming from other countries. (which can be seen on the Ex nihilo website for more details).

What are the responsibilities in the band? Who does what i.e. lyrics, music, art?

As I explained, I occupied myself with this from the end of 1998 - beginning 1999. I am responsible for the sleeve design of the albums and tapes, the lyrics of the songs and the composition of the music. Philosophical paintings, texts, (Lyrics), poems etc...

With what music did you each grow up with?

Thanks to my mother, I was introduced to New Wave and also Rock'n'roll (a Little Punk as well). I adore the music of Moroder (Midnight Express) I intend to make another reprise of this Soundtrack... I as well as the very poetic texts of certain French artists such as "Jacques Brel, Gainsbourg..." But also "OMD-Alpaville-Secret Service-Depeche mode and especially... The Cure and Siouxsie, which pushed me to be a musician, in spite of the fact that my music has nothing to do with these groups... I like also much "Moricone and Carmina Burana...

Have any of you formal training on any instruments?

I learned certain basics, certain instruments, but in vain... I am a scientific musician; it is the name that I give to the style of my compositions. My recording studio is called "the Laboratory of Sciences of the Sound" With that, a scientific musician, I think that the name that I created will be a truth for the solo creators of today, still much more for those of the future!

If you had to classify or label yourself, what would that be?

Approximately, my music is very Indus-Techno, but the majority of the people that listen to my music really do not manage to classify it, and so much the better, I prefer that! I mix too many styles, which creates my own mark, overall my own label and sound. On one hand this is positive (To be original...) and Negative on the other, (not able to find a label having the courage to launch it... these labels that are satisfied with simple groups composing a kind of stereotype pseudo underground music, resembling Dance. These groups creating in 2 minutes a repetitive melody of shit, that makes me laugh, because that is not worth a fart and it is that which goes on to labels... Caution!!! Soon the Gothic Star Academy... Ha! Ha! Ha! (It is obviously sarcastic...)

How would you describe your music to people who have never heard of you before?

That it is Avant-gardiste and deserves more attention...
- How has your music mutated or evolved since 1998?

With time Ex Nihilo became more Indus-Tekno... For my other projects it is another subject... Ex nihilo in 1998 was to be rather a kind of Dark Wave project, kind of like Clan of Xymox or OMD for example.... It is only one simple example but there are not enough example to support the idea of what it was suppose to be like!

Are there any main influences you can agree on when it comes to the band. Perhaps in the way you write or structure your music, lyrical content etc?

The translation is not precise enough... I cannot answer...

When did you decide and started making music individually? Was there any specific catalyst for this decision?

If I understand the question correctly, I started individually, because I had (Or I still have...) the feeling to be a misanthropist. I work better and more quickly alone... And that it is justified... Nevertheless, I am not against parallel projects... The parallel projects fight my demons...

Which other bands do you relate to in the scene today?

Today... none, because I left the music for my other work (Writing-poetry-philosophy-drawing, inventions, etc... But I still work on remixes and Covers. These versions are reproduced on the 2nd disk as a bonus on my last album of Ex nihilo (Pentagon Explosion). There are versions of my titles by other very interesting projects (Of the Projects more interesting than one hears today in the Goth clubs) Of course, without false modesty, I put myself in the batch of the interesting projects... You will find all, concerning the other projects and people with whom I worked, and hope to work in the future, on my site www.x-nihilo.org

When and how did Ex-Nihilo get together? And why this name?

The name Ex nihilo, wants to say "Come, emerge from nowhere..."..Voilà!!! I will not say any more for the moment, one will see in a few years. Because it has a direction which deserves more patience to describe the veracity of this name compared to this project!

How would you describe your live performances so someone could have an idea of what to expect on seeing you perform?

Ex nihilo and its Side-Projects will never made "Live" for the moment, but with assistance it is possible and that Ex nihilo is the project which deserves to be likely to do one (Many people wait to see Ex nihilo Live... And I would be happy to please to them. The problem is my preoccupations with a health which blocks so much of some of my projects (Even other projects and not just music). It is infernal...!!! I devote myself to it more than I did then...

What is the strangest thing you have seen while playing live?

I can never answer... not having done concert....

What is the most embarrassing thing you have each experienced on stage?

Again I cannot answer...

What is the inspiration behind the lyrics of your music?

In general, I do not have great inspiration for the texts relative to my songs. Concerning poetry, yes, I have some inspirations like Kafka, Camus, Poppy Z Brite.

Baudelaire, the poems of Robert Smith (The Cure) and philosophers that with simple concise sentences brought to for me something enormous...

Do you have hobbies/past times and what are they?

My hobbies form part of the occupations that I take seriously. Writing-philosophy-metaphysics-invention-thought-poem-music-drawing-paintings... I work as an autodidact!

What do you feel is your personal best achievement and also as a band?

I am not sure I have understood the question correctly but if it is what I think, my best achievement in music are the albums 'L'argent est l'art des gens de Satan', 'Maladie mentale' and 'Pentagon Explosion', for two reasons, the musical intelligence and the majority of the texts which are in fact of the poems...

Is being in Ex-Nihilo a difficult thing or do you have too much fun to worry about personalities and stress?

It is an anguish not to be respected for the work I have created and provided for certain Compilations/Samplers, and which do not respect the artists, of which I have formed a part and felt sorry for. Yes! It is difficult in this case. Today even the underground becomes a zone rotted by the chicanery, directed by whores... If it is not a good answer, sorry... At least I have tried...

What is the best thing about this band?

The best thing for me about my 1st project Ex Nihilo, is first of all that it exists, and also to have been able to build other projects around Ex Nihilo (Cicerone, Cogito and Perception). Also the pleasure of seeing my projects on superb Compilations/Samplers (V/A)... More details on the site www.x-nihilo.org

You also have three other projects- can you tell us a bit about each. Music styles, influences etc

CICERONE :

Project with Trip Hop and Down Tempo influences combined with a strong New Wave romantic key. I began this kind of mixture Dark and Trip hop in 1998 with the title " Les portes du sang". And yes, I mixed Trip Hop and Dark before much of other groups now known... In 1998 these groups did not perhaps even exist...

COGITO :

A Dark Ambient project with martial rhythms and some Wagnerian keys. The project in itself made think of film music. Moreover, on this subject, I think that it would adapt perfectly too many films today and of the past... It is a project which has really its place in the cinema (Fantasy, thriller, drama...) It is enough to listen to it to feel it, it is very obvious. Much one should notice!

PERCEPTION :

Nothing on this project has yet been founded... In spite of that there is much to say about it (Yes, it is very paradoxical... LOL!) At the beginning, this project was to be only a Tribute to The Doors (All had been envisaged, and the small sleeve of the album has been finished). Finally I decided with time, to go further then homage to Doors I.e. to create titles for "Perception" which has nothing to do with the group The Doors. Today, at the end of 2006, this most interesting idea which resulted from it: I

hope to carry out a Tribute to The Doors (By Ex Nihilo), but only 3 or 4 titles (A Tribute Single). Then, "Perception" will be in the 70s-80s genres and keep the spirit of the years of the Doors and Pink Floyd, but in the style of Electro-Trip Hop (Perhaps a drummer and a guitarist will put an analogical sound to it!). It is possible for you to say that it is quasi impossible to precisely describe this project, too odd perhaps!!! YES!!! You can find a track which can put to you on the right track and envisage the direction of this: "Les Perles de sang " This title is on 2 projects: In the album of Ex Nihilo "Pentagon Explosion (the 2CDs)" and in the album of "Diaphanous" CICERONE. I have put this title in these 2 projects because, it is indescribable... (Perhaps the birth of a new style, that of PERCEPTION).... The title " Les Perles de sang " is available on the official site of Ex Nihilo www.x-nihilo.org. It musicale reflects well what PERCEPTION will become. The text is very important in this title and, the Text (Poetry etc...) will be the basis for the project "PERCEPTION"

Why do you have so many projects in each such a different style?

Quite simply, it is that in 1999 I had the impression that my first professional CD was in my opinion, too eclectic to touch a greater audience. Some found that perfect and others preferred what was Indus, electro-trip hop, or techno of that album... Some people liked it as it was and I am happy, which proves that eclectic people exist! In any case the 1st CD of Ex nihilo "Visions" remains and will remain such as it is, it is in my opinion a rare pearl (Without false modesty!)

Thereafter, I finally chose to split up Ex nihilo in 3 quite distinct projects. It was for me the best solution, (Not to make this a "Whore" in order for me to do better... LOL) the fact of having to split up Ex Nihilo into 3 projects, therefore not preventing me from including certain Indus environments in the Trip Hop project and vice versa. In the same way for "Cogito", I include sometimes Indus sounds, to the Trip Hop!!! Odd some will say to me... But you will be astonished by the richness that it can emerge from such a symbiosis...

In short everyone will find their happiness in one of these 3 projects. I do not think of having made a bad choice. I do not regret this decision. With regard to the 4th project "Perception", there is another history. This project was born in 2004 and have a certain bond with my others projects. However, to have 4 projects requires much time, reflection and research in the sounds and the texts. I am satisfied with it and I think well of having dissociated the styles. It all depends on my mood. When I compose, I choose the style which is appropriate and which has a relationship with my mental tortures of the day... Except "Perception", you can strongly feel 3 various moods which haunt me... The Environments of these 3 projects are very intimate, (the sounds, the texts, the intonations of my voice, and the covers of my Cds etc...)

What can we expect from you in the near future ?

What is sure is that there are new Cds of my 3 projects (Ex Nihilo-Cicerone-Cogito). The official site of Ex nihilo will be remade with a look of topicality (Because its appearance goes back to 1999....!!!!) There will be on the site many innovations like: New headings (Drawing-Paintings...) Of course new MP3's! The new heading PHOTOGRAPHS. An advancement in the PERCEPTION project as you can now listen already to the MP3, but more soon! (In this connection listen to " Les perles de sang" which touches already a little with this project).

New chronicles and Interviews (PRESS)... (the interview with Gothik Radio I had almost forgotten (LOL!!! Of course done now and with pleasure!!!)... I intend to put in place remote loading of the totality of my albums (Except, my Demos Tapes which

will remain a NO-CLAIMS BONUS, and except, the 1st title of Ex Nihilo "Ave Tenebrae (Version 1998)". appeared only on a Swiss Sampler of 1998 And it will still have I think more small details being put in order...

I also think of keeping secret all my reprises of groups such as The Cure, Depeche Mode, Genesis etc... by timidity perhaps! I intend to keep secret all my 1st versions of my projects (Especially the Ex Nihilo of 1996-1997). They are in truth titles of minimalist compositions and more seriously very bad quality. PS: These old titles brought afterwards for me a great help to achieve good titles today. These old demonstrations are like some of my friends, there is good everywhere!!!

What are your thoughts on the gothic scene currently?

Houlàààà! It is a question which I will be happy to answer!!! Good, you want my opinion on the scene.... I will acknowledge to you that I have not been at a Goth Club for nearly 2 years, not by fault of desire, but by problem of health and the abuses of unquestionable filth, of drugs, which failed to kill me. I wanted to re-examine certain friends who are dear to me, but my disease still prevents me from going there. I lost contact with the world that one could say is real (For us). Thus to make it short, even if according to what I have heard, the Goth scene became shitty, due to the fact of the Goths, young people who swear by M. Manson and Evanescence. It is sure to prevent the old Goths to go there... But good, we all had 15 years and had to begin with the Cure, Depeche mode etc. For them, it is Manson etc. Gothic is not limited to the LOOK, but also with a form of philosophy, thought, manner of living. (Certainly in margin of the society, but here...) Gothism was seen at every moment... All eccentricities understood!!!

But given the pleasure of finding themselves between us from time to time... the Clubs enable us to remove these morons... Time after time there will be dissatisfaction with them, and it is there that the Goth Clubs do well, to remove them.

I acknowledge all so a dissatisfaction for this Electro-new-Wave shit worth 2€, I will not quote a name of a group, because those who will read this will immediately understand what I want to say... Yes the Pop-Electro pseudo 80s shit that puffs out of the original underground... This shit that one could put in these emissions of TV Shows like Star Academy...

At this rate, the Underground will be no more if this shit continues to rot the Gothic evenings. The Goth movement or rather Goth philosophy presents so much on this filth that Pop inserts as its reason for being. I do not hold a blunt ideology, no, I am for the revival, but from there to bring pretences of Boy Bands... I say SHIT!!!

Without forgetting this mania of remixing??? It is good for groups wanting to make them known; I do not say the opposite (I am in favour there in this direction). But good, the known groups (Of which the majority, are groups that I adore), start to inflate me with their remixes, whose majority is rotted in addition. What Shit, of such good groups limiting themselves for lack of inventiveness.

It is needed for groups to be interdependent of true nonconventional music, in order to make, what in its etymological direction the UNDERGROUND wants to say, reappear!!!

Thank you very much for your time.

Best of luck for the future!!!

All the best to you!

Vassago the mighty prince!!!

Laine Gebel from Ex Nihilo

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