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VETO (DK)

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Originaire de la ville d'Århus au Danemark, le groupe VETO se forme en 2004 autour de Troels Abrahamsen (claviers et chant), David Krogh Andersen (guitare), Mark Lee (guitare et claviers), Jens Skov Thomsen (basse) et Mads Hasager (batterie). Inspiré par les groupes de rock anglais avec une orientation electro rock, VETO sort l'EP *I Will Not Listen* en 2005, et un premier album *There's a Beat in All Machines* en 2006, sur le label danois de hip hop Tabu Records, qui n'a pas pu résister à la rythmique avant-gardiste, aux fantastiques riffs et surtout à la voix de Troels, qualifiée par nombre de critiques comme l'une des voix majeures du rock danois.

L'année suivante, le groupe est récompensé aux Danish Music Awards en tant que révélation et dans la catégorie vidéo, tandis qu'aux Etats-Unis leur titre « You Are a Knife » est utilisé dans la série NCIS. Le deuxième album, *Crushing Digits* (mai 2008), bénéficie d'une sortie internationale chez Sony BMG. Il est distribué en France à l'automne 2009, poussé par le single « Built to Fail ». En 2011 sort le génialissime *Everything Is Amplified*. Veto continue sa progression vers le firmament.

«Nous avons passé des heures à répéter en salle sans arriver à rien de constructif. Mais lorsque nous nous isolons complètement pendant une période, c'est comme si la musique sortait de nulle part. Au sein du groupe, nos petites contributions individuelles se transforment et deviennent des compositions cohérentes. Tout ce qui ressemble de près ou de loin à un sentiment de propriété disparaît. Lorsque nous sommes ensemble, tout devient VETO. »

Jens Skov Thomsen

Dès le départ, la composition collective des chansons a été le centre du projet. Et VETO a décidé de rassembler des chansons pour faire un album complet tout en se mettant à l'écoute des ressemblances et des différences de chacun.

Leur troisième album, *Everything Is Amplified*, rassemble toujours des morceaux pensés de manière collégiale, et devrait marquer le succès du groupe hors Scandinavie.

- The trendsetting quintet has loosened their structures and is letting dalliance and creative friendship control their third album. Stagnation is impossible for an orchestra that is based on progress – human as well as musically. As a result their view on society has never been stronger.

Before VETO there was nothing. At least not on the wide electronic stage in Denmark. It is VETO who has tamed the machines and opened up for the once very isolated niche. Without letting go of their willfulness they have gained artistic recognition, had commercially tailwind, played sold-out concerts home and abroad and won numerous prizes – among these the P3 award in 2008 (the most prestigious award in Denmark).

So it is an orchestra, who during the course of a few years, have gone from upcoming to role models and trendsetters, who is now releasing their third album, *Everything Is Amplified*. Everybody is stirring impatiently to hear their latest creation and the single "This Is Not" set the agenda for the radio from day one by becoming "This Week Unavoidable" in Denmark. But instead of hiding under the yoke of expectation VETO has loosened up. It all shines through on an album which is significantly more open and calm than it's tight and strenuous predecessor *Crushing Digits* released in 2008.

- We have reached a point where we make room for playing more, where as we previously have been more structured and systematic. There are more room for differences and more power on the chorus and reverb on the album. One of our basic philosophies is that we must develop and not stop until that development disappears. It has to be a perpetual motion machine where every experiment gives us answers but also opens up for new questions, says lead singer Troels Abrahamsen.

Some of the questions are pointed at our society, because the groups x-ray vision has never been stronger. The title of the album is taken from a speech held by the famous American comedian Jon Stewart at one of his *Rally to Restore Sanity* in the US. "When everything is amplified, we hear nothing", said the man, who if any, knows something about setting a political agenda with his art form, It has inspired large parts of the confronting lyrical universe, Troels Abrahamsen has build into the songs.

- We are definitely more occupied with questions related to society. Right now we live in a pompous world where everybody thinks of me and mine. Everybody is more interested in being heard than listen. Therefore it is a huge disillusion toward democracy because does the politicians strive to create a better society or to be reelected? It makes it hard to know what to think, says Troels Abrahamsen.

That theme shines clearly through on the track "Spun" and it's chanting line "So what the fuck are we supposed to do?". In "Take It Outside" dreams of a revolution or a quick and surprising takeover is aired.

- A landslide election. An Obama. Those things gives you a boost even tough reality turns out to be hard afterwards. But you get all those who are hiding mobilized. There is a huge superficiality because most people aren't content but hardly anybody takes action even though change comes from within. We are not necessarily pioneers but we have to voice our thoughts, says Troels Abrahamsen.

That is why they reach out not only to themselves, their friends and family but also to the average listener. This also applies to the single "This Is Not" which is a lullaby that tries to conjure a level-headedness: If we rush to o much, we lose ourselves. That is a message the band tries to pass on – also to the artists they suddenly have become role models for.

- Everything doesn't have to be on the spot. Art has to work as research. You're building on top of others and things take its time. So ask yourselves: Do You play music to promote yourselves or to perfect some expressions? says Troels Abrahamsen

The five members in VETO play music together because they are friends and kindred spirits. They have kept that in mind in the middle of the anxious recognition of that they are now part of the establishment. So the five Jutlanders have gotten together and just let loose in an outburst of a joint need to create. Everybody has contributed with hooks and beats and sometimes the outline have been ready in 15 minutes.

- Everything is without filter and it has been a great experience to feel that music doesn't always have to be thought through. New nuances have appeared because we work differently and because we have become older, explain Troels Abrahamsen and states:

- Now more than ever it is important to be true to ourselves. Otherwise we won't be able to handle being public figures.

A visiter

Le site des artistes

www.vetonet.dk

www.myspace.com/vetosite

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