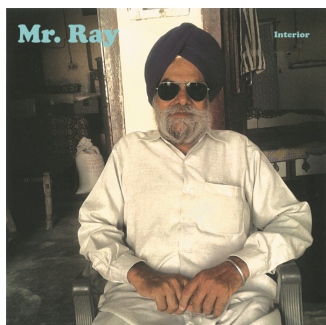




IRASCIBLE MUSIC



MR. RAY (DE)

Album: Interior

Label: BYM Records

Release: 03.05.2019

Web: irascible.ch/releases/mr-ray/interior/

It was during the hot summer of 2017 in Berlin, that Mr. Ray was born: *Interior*, the debut album of Jari Antti's (ex-Navel) and Pablo Thiermann's new band, crafts music with a 60's and 70's aesthetic. Jangly, seemingly simple mid-tempo pop structures, building symphonies with magisterial guitars, four-piece drumkits, and lots and lots of reverb. Tunes that share their sonic roots between the British neo-psychedelic harmonic and thundering guitars and a sweetened, yet acid, folk taste of Paisley Underground-meets-the Laurel Canyon scene.

It was during the hot summer of 2017 in Berlin, among tours and the curiosity of sharing similar musical ideas, that Mr. Ray was born. One could even trace its origins to April 2016, when Pablo Thiermann and Jari Antti met during a Chicos de Nazca tour; Pablo was playing and performing as a sound engineer with the neo-psychedelic outfit and Jari had already recorded an album with them ('Ether'; 2017), so it seemed almost inevitable that something else was going to take place between the two of them. When they realized that they had a lot of things in common regarding musical affinities and ways to shape up a record, it was unavoidable; they teamed up with friends around the scene between Berlin and Santiago to give life and shed some light on a soulful and dynamic album. Alongside the former members their first upcoming live shows will be performed by the artists Matías Santa María, Joaquín Margulís Luchsinger and Gouch (from Chilean folk-rock combo Lagunas Mentales).

You can see Mr. Ray's debut album as a joint of noisy psychedelic pop songs entangled with the lush and freshness of Neil Young's folk ethos. Its seven songs may seem as 60s and 70s aesthetics fused with some tingles of 80s synth-driven alternative rock, keeping in mind a sense of experimentation that drives these four music fans and music lovers. The album kicks off with "Distant Light" and "Down by Law", tunes that share their sonic roots between the British neo-psychedelic harmonic and thundering guitars and a sweetened, yet acid, folk taste of Paisley Underground-meets-the Laurel Canyon scene. That's kind of what the sound on this record mostly feels; lovely and easy tunes that melt together as if they were building or drawing a bigger picture for us to gaze, expanding and pursuing a somewhat friendly, enjoyable experience. Some of these songs may also seem as slow-burners; "Let it Go" starts as a psychedelic pop synth-driven walk in the park, gliding through guitar harmonies until it reaches a beautiful fuzzy, reverberating breaking point towards its coda. At the same time, "Sweet Times" and "You Can Only

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Be Yourself” rejoice on their own summery vibes and shiny, echoing bliss, perfect for introspective thoughts on your own and/or cheery moments alongside people you love as well.

The record is yet another example of what BYM Records is currently exploring: a perspective on what has been called an “easy rock” code that focuses in warm guitar music and folk escapes inspired in every-day emotions and relatable, wholesome activities (see Virginia Trance and Lagunas Mentales for a further insight). But it’s also an additional take on the shattering of physical borders for making music; since the members of Mr. Ray are based in and around Berlin and Santiago (some songs were recorded in the German city at Monoton Studios and another in Laguna de Aculeo, Chile), the story of this album slightly follows a work process already explored on ‘Land in the Sky’ (BYM; 2018), a collaborative album between Alfredo Thiermann (Föllakzoid) and Tres Warren (Psychic Ills) that was born from exchanging demos and recordings via New York and Berlin to finally being recorded in Santiago. And as for Mr. Ray, they know that music is all about freedom and constant experimentation to shape what they really love to do, going beyond borders and conventional ideas.

Jari Antti played in bands such as Navel, Chicos de Nazca, Göldin & Bit-Tuner and suXession
Pablo Thiermann is a sound engineer for bands such as Camera, Dead Meadow, Föllakzoid, The Holy Drug Couple, Harvey Rushmore & The Octopus and played in Chicos de Nazca

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