

20 + 22 = 42!

A blog about records, shows, photography and stuff.

Sometimes German, sometimes English. The title of this blog *used to change from time to time*. That will certainly resume next January.

If the title is displayed in Comic Sans, please refresh the site! That's unless you really dig Comic Sans of course.

Interested in me reviewing your music? *Please read this!* I am also writing album reviews for VeilOfSound.com.

2022-10-31

MAGMA - Kärtëhl

Magma, the blueprint for a band with an absolutely singular identity, is back once again. And even forty-nine years after "*Mekanik Destruktiw Kommandöh*" the French-Kobaïan group isn't planning on giving you any reason to get bored by their *Zeuhl* shenanigans.



MAGMA - Kärtëhl (2LP, Zünd D etched) (2022)

With their new live line-up and nothing to do for it, since *covid* cleared so many stages, *Magma* just used the time to record the successor of "*Zëss (Le Jour Du Néant)*" - and it became a very different work.

Instead of one huge composition or suite from drummer / singer / mastermind *Christian Vander* "*Kärtëhl*" is not only a compilation of different songs - you know, what most rock music albums are -, but half of them are also contributions *not* written by him. Which is a big deal, since even though

recommended post:

RIGHT ON MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL • Oct. 8th 2022 at Doornroosje, Nijmegen • with NEPTUNIAN MAXIMALISM, SOLAR TEMPLE x DEAD NEANDERTHALS, SPILL GOLD, TANKZILLA and TEMPLE FANG

Even though the shows of Asagraum and Wesenwille in the Groene Engel (Oss) and even more so Sumac and Patrick Shiroishi in the Little Devil...



they stress that there has never been a deliberate choice to have him as the sole composer, it has actually been that way for decades.

But three other members are stepping up for the task now. "Do Rîn İliuss" by lead vocalist *Hervé Aknin*, "Walömehndêm" and "Wiï Mëlëhn Tü" by pianists *Thierry Eliez* resp. *Simon Goubert* all bring some fresh wind while also seamlessly fitting into the band's mind-blowing signature melange of prog rock, jazz, *orffian* classic and epic choirs singing myths of a far away planet in a made-up language.

From the beginning it's clear that the tone of this album is lighter and more adventurous than the doomsday narration of "Zëss", while also both the colourfulness of the vocals - provided by all in all seven singers - as well as the wild rock music side of **Magma** are brought to the forefront.

The legendary *Jannick Top* has been among the godfathers of a mean powerful bass sound on their 1970's records, and his son *Jimmy* obviously takes inspiration from him. *Christian Vander* has fun returning to the drumkit after his break on the last album and proving that he still can absolutely slay it as an insane jazz rock powerhouse. Last but not least *Rudy Blas* brings back the rock guitars, which had been missing in favour of the orchestra on "Zëss" in spades.

In short "Kärtëhl" is just **Magma** having a blast - which is still far beyond the skills most musicians would even dare to dream of. But if you're among those fans for whom the band had become a little too academic lately, you will probably enjoy the energetic purity of this cooperative effort all the more. This flies by so fast!

As a great bonus the record ends with the demo versions of the two *Vander* songs "Hakëhn Deïs" and "Dëhndë", both recorded way back in 1978 just with himself on piano and a capella beatbox and the late *René Garber*, who also played bass clarinet on several **Magma** classics, on lead vocals. And that's not just an interesting glimpse into the creative process, but actually very listenable and - just like the rest of "Kärtëhl" - a joy to behold. This music will always be unique. Special. Impressive. Bliss.

And now just give me that beautiful cymbal on the cover for Christmas!



Suchen

recent top 5:



MAGMA - Kärtëhl

Magma, the blueprint for a band with an absolutely singular identity, is back once again. And even forty-nine years after "Mekanik Des...



PINK TANK FESTIVAL • 29. Oktober 2022 in der Pumpe, Kiel • mit 10.000 KM² GEGEN

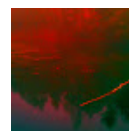
DIE ZEIT, BEES MADE HONEY IN THE VEIN TREE, CAMEL DRIVER, LOW ORBIT und LOST MOON

Letztes Mal hatte ich es noch ausgelassen, doch dieses Jahr entschloss ich mich kurzfristig, endlich wieder eines der Pink Tank Records -Fes...



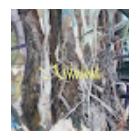
FARFLUNG - Like Drones In Honey

Stilistisch gibt es eigentlich wenig Berührungspunkte. Wahrscheinlich war es also das Covermotiv Menschen mit komischem Kopfersatz welches ...



harineweekly 43/52

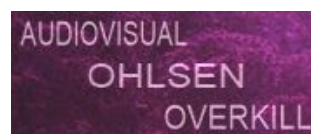
All signs in this week's selection of Digital Harinezumi 3.0 pictures are on autumn. Wow, who would have thought? And getting my ass ou...



RINUWAT - Dua Naga

An anachronistic fusion of droniest doom metal with Southeast Asian sounds and traditions. Check. One track featuring Senyawa 's Rully S...

follow this blog on FB:



content:

- ▼ 2022 (158)
- ▼ Oktober (25)
- FARFLUNG - Like Drones In