

Asia Special - English version
Bangkok and Singapore

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As with every issue dedicated to a specific destination, we have the habit of talking to as many different people we can during our tour. We heard good points and bad, justified or not, Vietnamese against Thai, this and that... or just travelers who told us about their bad experiences, especially going through customs. However, let's not forget how each trip is truly unique, so we try not to make any generalities based on personal accounts. In any case, only the truth stands the test of time. Each trip is made up of different experiences, depending on the people we met or the records found... What is undeniable is the cultural wealth that results from the melting pot we witnessed. For example, what Laos brought to Thai music demonstrates, once again, that there are no barriers when it comes to art and passion. And what about Olivier Schreuder, a Dutchman at the origin of Isantronics? Finally, according to Nathalie Nguyen, the era of globalization began a long time ago. But let's not forget the cultural roots. The popular culture that makes you feel less alone, open to others.

We feel certain that those who some consider to be simple "followers" still find philosophical meaning in these rich forms of expression, that more and more music fans cultivate a genuine interest in the cultural and historical aspects of the music. Being a Dj is not just about dancing and putting your "hands in the air", it's about culture.

So our fiftieth issue is designed to recount, in part, our voyage throughout parts of Asia. Due to a lack of space and also because of our brief stay in Bali, we will not dwell on this island paradise, especially since we feel that the subject has adequately covered elsewhere... As present and visible as the cultures of surfing, skateboarding and partying are, the presence of vinyl and beatmaking on the island is much more scarce. We only 24 hours in Ho Chi Minh City for an extended Dj set at The Observatory - which we'll get back to later... We decided to focus on our other two destinations: Bangkok (Bkk) and Singapore (Sg). These cities share a relative proximity, not only in distance, but also culturally. A Chinese influence is present, historically, but we decided to set aside political history in order to better share our vision of the forms of artistic expression linking the diverse areas of the local population today. So Sg and especially Bkk are on the rise. Last October, the Thai capital even hosted their first biennale art fair... When we notice how many events are sponsored by international companies, we can wonder why their French counterparts don't follow suit. Is Europe really "ahead of the game"? One can wonder. While the solution won't be found in these pages, our vision of music and culture will be... To mark the release of this issue, we invite you to come down and boogie with us on Thursday, April 18 at the Comptoir Général in Paris. If you're wondering what kinds of vinyls we dug up during our travels, there's only one way to find out! Rare wax!

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Bangkok

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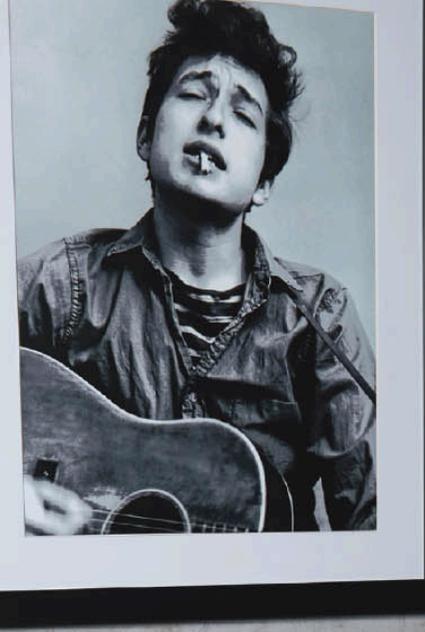


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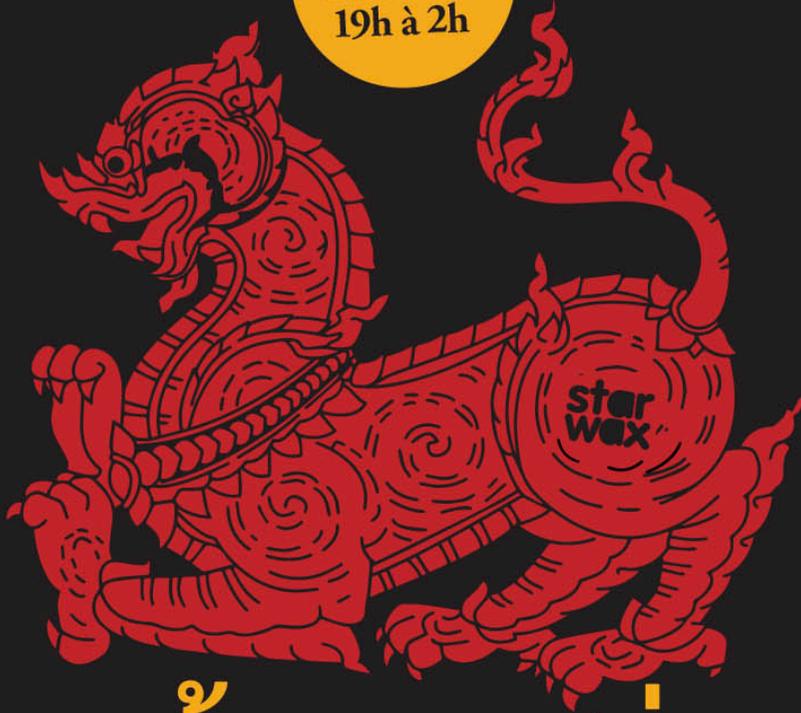


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BANG KOK PASS

THE SPRAWLING METROPOLITAN EXPANSE OF BANGKOK IS AT TIMES SHROUDED IN POLLUTION, DESPITE AN EXPANDING SUBWAY SYSTEM. REGARDLESS, ONE IS RAPIDLY OVERTAKEN BY THE WARM CLIMATE, THE EXOTIC ALLURE OF THE STREET FOOD AND NUMEROUS TUK-TUK TAXIS DARTING TO AND FRO... THE THAI CAPITAL HAS MUCH TO OFFER, INDEED. THE SUKHUMVIT DISTRICT & EKKAMAI STREET PROVIDE A GLIMPSE INTO OTHER FACETS OF CITY LIFE. CONCEPT STORES, RECORD SHOPS, HOTELS, GALLERIES, CLUBS, BARS, RESTAURANTS... SOME SEEM HIDDEN AWAY FROM PASSERS-BY, DOWN A DEAD-END STREET OR UP ON A ROOFTOP, SURPRISES ABOUND. WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THIS MYSTERIOUS CITY, WHOSE LEFT BANK SEEMS TO HAVE FINALLY BROKEN WITH PAST TRADITIONS, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING...

With more than 9 million inhabitants spread out over 1600 square-meters, Bangkok is divided into many districts, so much so that some claim that there is no "downtown". If you're not just looking for trendy neighborhoods, Phaya Thai is an excellent alternative. As many of the locals don't speak English, it's extremely convenient to use Grab, the taxi application of Southeast Asia which, since 2012, allows you to book and pay online. Taxis travel even very short distances, the prices are reasonable, especially outside peak hours... The use of motorcycle taxis is very common. There are buses, some of which run all day and night, as well as the BTS (subway), but it stops running at midnight. If you don't have a card, you must use a ticket for each train change and the price varies depending on the distance... If you're looking for a more touristic and traditional option, you can always travel by boat! The best thing to do (if you have a budget of 50 euros per day) is to take advantage of one of the modern hotels available. Many are surprisingly affordable, despite the high level of design and quality of their service. The City Loft, in Ekkamai is reasonable and cozy, with an on-site bar. Many of them, such as the Salil Hotel (The Salil at Soi Thonglor 1, 44) or the Tada Parkview have outdoor pools. The Hotel Icon is yet another well-equipped hotel, with an incredible view, to boot. Be careful when booking as we discovered that there are certain rooms without windows, (which we don't recommend)...

Now that you've got your bags stashed and you're sipping on a freshly-squeezed juice, it's time to plan your next moves. If your mouth is already watering with thoughts of the local cuisine, then head directly to page 12 for food tips. Otherwise pay attention because we tried to give an expansive overview of the local DJ scene, its players, the promoters, the clubs... from a traveling DJ's perspective. As it's hot all year long, there are pool parties which start in the afternoon or boat parties like Bangkok Island or Silent Vibes... The trend is rather funky music or electro-pop as well as more rare, exotic sounds. Nowadays there is genuinely something for everyone, even the Berlin techno influence is present. Generalist DJs spin a wide range of vibes, from reggaeton to hip-hop mixing bass music and Edm.

Dj Rhythm Studio DJ's such as Dj Gift Okb feature regularly at those types of parties we weren't too focused on the EDM scene, but don't hesitate checking clubbingthailand.com for more info. The techno and house scene is vibrant, with precursors such as Dj T-Base aka The Funky Gangster keeping things pumping.

Others on the scene worth mentioning are Dj T'ong, Dan Buri, Aneesh Medina, Dj Sunya, MK Morkot and long list of expats... The Mustache is emblematic, it closes at sunrise, from Thursday to Saturday nights. Other favorites are the Glow Club or the Violet, a small club that proudly declares "Fvck the Mainstream". They host eclectic parties with Djs spinning various flavors of trap, hip-hop and future bass. We did feel that hip-hop (or its derivatives) are starting to become fairly well represented in Bangkok. At the moment, there are even two reality shows: Show Me The Money Thailand and The Rapper 2 which feature rappers and pop stars. Bangkok Invaders (Dj Cleo P, Dj Tob, DeeJay Ono, Dj Leadhh...) is a superstar collective of sorts, much like the rap group Buddha Bless, among others. Dj Spydamonkee, meanwhile, is one of the pioneers of the turntablism scene. Still as active as ever, he offers freestyle scratch sessions every Tuesday in his bar, Tha Beatlounge. It's located in Bang Kapi, Krung Thep, on a street where there are also several clubs and rehearsal studios. The Sugar Club Bkk is THE hip-hop club, open 7/7. Also worth mentioning are the "Beats by the Pool" parties which take place in the afternoon. Penta is one of the more recent clubs, they opened at the end of last year. Club Bootleg is where you'll find 19Tyger x Dj H3nri performing and for a more future R'n'B set, follow Dj Kade. (You'll find his playlist on page 62).

If you're looking for alternatives to a typical club night, there are many venues which feature more organic grooves – they are closing around 1am. Among the establishments not to be missed is the Nowhere bar-restaurant on Ekkamai (6 Alley - Phra Khanong Nuea), which offers Eurasian and also vegan cuisine. They boast a rooftop terrace and inside, concrete tables end in a staircase that lead nowhere (photo attached).

They're only open from Thursday to Saturday, but they feature many local DJs, such as Panda Superstar, Nk Chan, Dj Rocco, Chamapoo ... When the clientele lets loose, the party ends up on the dance floor... The line-up is selective and often you'll see many of the same DJs who mix at Studio Lam. Located on the ground floor, Studio Lam is warm and down to earth and they close at around 1 or 2 in the morning. The sound system is impressive and the choice of DJs is both eclectic and sharp. The biggest vinyl collectors in the world have spun and hung out there at one point or another. Parties like Nite Ride Bkk feature a tasty blend of disco, boogie, electro and modern funk.

De Commune is considered "hype" party due to its founder, the singer of well-known independent rock band Blues Tape & VJ Keep_Your_Eyes_On. The dress code and drink prices are chill, and the line up is always interesting. They host concerts (Stylish Nonsense ...) as well as DJ sets ... The "Kontraband" nights come highly recommended featuring sets of dub, bass music, footwork and jungle (it is organized by DJ Azek ..., a French DJ who's been in Bkk for over ten years ...). Latin, African and Caribbean music are not as present as in France. We also wondered about the reggae culture.

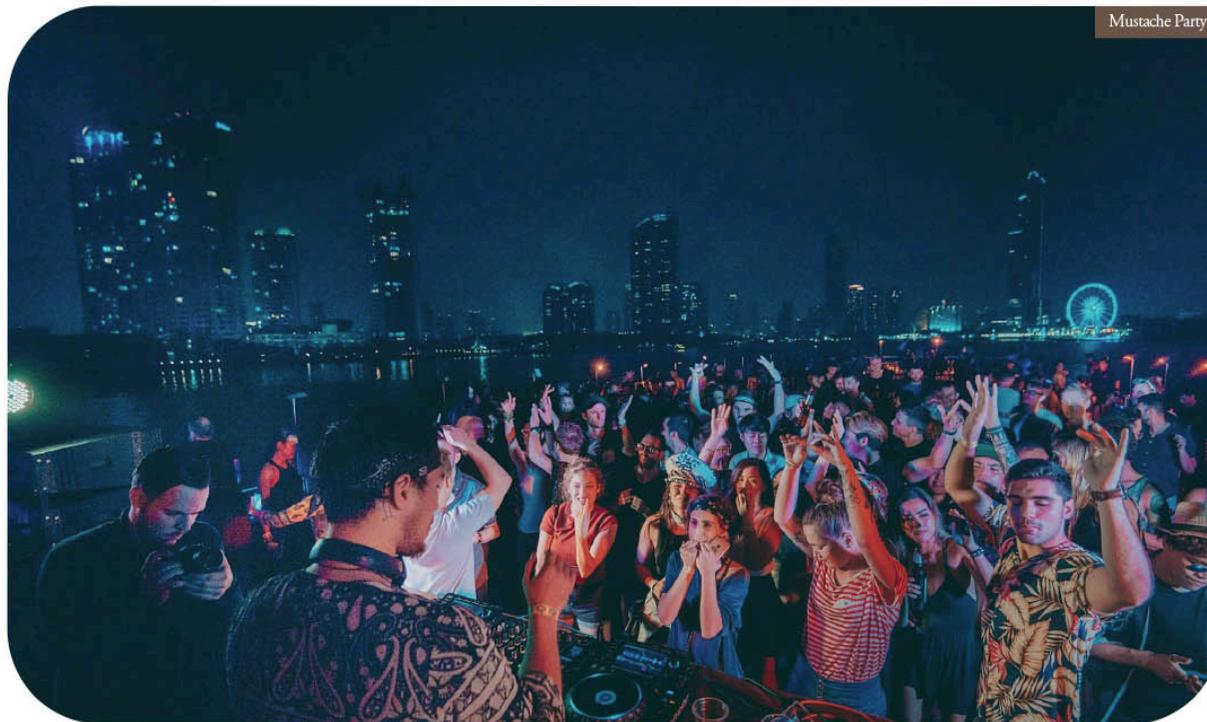
Even though artists like Pansak recorded reggae songs locally in the 80's, the scene today remains rather modest. Among notable reggae players are bands like Srirajah Rockers, producer Jahdub Stido and Miyalap, the sound system of reference... Young collective The Bangkok Riddim Syndicate are present on the scene, and the Kalanbatu Bar proudly flies the Rasta colors and portraits of the mighty Che.

For a jazzier atmosphere: Dumbo Bkk has recently opened, otherwise there is the FooJohn Building or Brown Sugar established in 1985. If you still have time, among the places to recommend there is the Beam Club, the Irons Balls Gin Parlor (a small cocktail bar, with no sign, with an charming sense of style, just next-door to a club...), the Czech Club, Blues Bar, Trap Thonglor, 12x12, Noma, White Line... And for a more exclusive experience there is Jam Café, Saxophone, Saucey Chicken and Beer Bomb where there are DJs on Fridays and Saturday, or the Kutai Bar. There are many more upscale places like Sirocco, Octave Rooftop Lounge & Bar, the Zoom Sky Bar... In conclusion, you have plenty of choices! However, there are very few prolific labels that put out physical releases.



Enjoy yourselves! Gentlemen pay attention to the lady boys! And if you still can not find what you're looking for, you can always find out more by visiting: www.siam2nite.com, www.bandwagon.asia, www.bk.asia-city.com, www.my-thai.org, www.fungjaizine.com.

For some daytime shopping, there is the Spanish brand 24 Kilates (who just opened a sublime shop) fully dedicated to sneaker freaks, Vac Thai or Carnival Bkk. One of the more "arty" concept stores is WWA Chooseless Café, in a small alley... For diner, if you're looking for a terrace with a view overlooking the Yodpiman River go to Mango Tree. And here are the galleries that impressed us: Goja Gallery Café Bangkok, WTF Gallery, Chin's Gallery, the Cho Why... About the graffiti, the official outdoor spot for writers is in Chalerm La Park. And for the massages pass ask Dj Ness!!Lo!



Mustache Party



Bkk street art

NATHALIE NGUYEN



ON THE OCCASION OF OUR SPECIAL ISSUE ON ASIAN CULTURE, WE'VE TRIED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT STREET FOOD IN ASIA. WE FELT IT APPROPRIATE THAT WE MEET WITH NATHALIE NGUYEN. BORN AND RAISED IN FRANCE BY VIETNAMESE PARENTS, SHE'S HEAD CHEF OF PITAYA RESTO, A RESTAURANT FOCUSED ON VARIATIONS OF THAI RECIPES. WE'RE HAPPY TO ADD HER TO OUR ROSTER OF SPECIALIZED CONTRIBUTORS HERE AT STARWAX. WE HAVE A TENDANCY TO FEEL THAT THE MP3 IS EQUIVALENT TO EATING FAST-FOOD, WHILE LISTENING TO A VINYL ON A GOOD SYSTEM CAN FULFILL ONES SOUL SUCH AS A BALANCED, WELL-PREPARED MEAL MIGHT. A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE IS, INDEED POSSIBLE, AND "STAYING ORGANIC" IS NOT JUST A CONCEPT... AS NATHALIE PROVES HERE BELOW!

Do you remember any of your first experiences in cooking?

Since my early childhood, I have had this image of my mother, even if she got home from work late, always rushed into the kitchen to make us something special. It was a duty for her. I realized how important it was, the day she asked me, as always, if I liked her dish. I must have been six years old, I was still stupid, and I wanted to answer something different. I simply told her no. My mother broke down in tears. I understood the beauty of her gesture by cooking every night, the desire to please us, the love she gave us by making us these dishes. And suddenly, I had the urge to try my hand at cooking. Later, on my eighteenth birthday, I remember my incredible disappointment when I woke up and realized that I had not simply become a woman overnight. My hair was still as dried-out as ever, I was still so shapeless, anyhow, I was totally disillusioned. So I worked all morning in the kitchen to make a strawberry pie... It was my way to finally become a woman. I had had my mother as a role model all along, in the kitchen cooking and now, I wanted to become ... her.

You say you have been marked since childhood by the work of your family as street cooks, can you tell us about it?

I was born in France, my parents and my older sister were part of the sizeable wave of survivors of the boat people. I was fortunate not to have experienced all of that, and to be born here, where my parents finally felt safe. When all of that went down, when my parents finally got their residence card, they were allowed to return. I first discovered Vietnam at the age of four. I still remember the feeling coming out of the plane. The heat was so overwhelming, I thought we were on fire. I remember my mother pulling me out of the airport by my arm to show me an elderly man and whisper to me, "This is your grandfather." And running towards him screaming "Grandpa !!! Just like in the movies, it was the first time I had ever met him ... my whole family is involved in some type of commerce business. We sell everything. Books, jewelry, clothes. I had the most fun at Ben Thanh, the biggest market in Saigon, where my uncle runs a small street restaurant. I spent my summers on the market, playing cook and waitress.

Thai street food is inspired by Vietnamese street food, true or false?

My aunt is Thai and she taught me all the subtleties of Thai cuisine. Both types have many similarities, we do use the same ingredients, the same cooking techniques... but the seasonings and spices are different. In Thailand, it's more "dynamic", the use of chilli is essential, the condiments are used with generosity and power in mind. In Vietnam, we are more subtle, we are more focused on softness, roundness, smoothness.

What defines street food in Asia?

In Asia, you'll always find your favorite street restaurant at the same spot day after day. The process is the same every day: the restaurant arrives and settles in early morning, the kitchen is up on wheels and the tables are unpacked. And they keep it going until dark, and continue long after. Since the kitchens are small, each restaurant has its own specialities. The dishes are unique at each stand, and we'll seek out a particular cook for the quality of what he serves, or he might be considered the best in a particular area. Incidentally, the restaurants never have names but rather large scrawlings with the names of the dishes they serve. Prices on the street are obviously cheaper than eating at an indoor restaurant, but eating doesn't cost much in Asia to begin with. We are in extremely fertile lands, so it's a pleasure to see everyone eating sufficiently. The real reason for the success of street cooking is that houses in Asia are often too small and often contain three generations: grandparents, parents, children... the house is therefore a real challenge to organize. There's never enough space inside, so it's more efficient to go out on the sidewalk and eat together! I'll be honest, in Asia... we eat all the time. All the time, all the time, all the time ...

"I'm sure you don't know that sauerkraut is Chinese ... but it is!"

Are the vendors exclusively female?

It's a cliché but, yes! Street restaurants in Asia are almost exclusively run by women! In my opinion, it is often a question of education. My mother had taught me to cook at a very young age to feed my future husband and be a good future wife (laughs). Nevertheless, for more technical and demanding tasks, such as grilling, we often find men. And I find that normal. Of course, many women are exceptional and they do those things very well. But for me, the best technicians are men, and that's certainly why there is a majority of men in the big kitchens.

How can one avoid getting lost between the terms fast food, street food and junk food...

These terms don't really interest me much. These are basically buzz-words that journalists use to make something trendy! Here, another term, bam! Today, we talk about nomadic cooking ... Though many recipes often have a fascinating history, I'm not usually that impressed by trends.

How can street food be synonymous with quality food? I am thinking in particular of hygiene in handling meat ...

Well, yes, because we tend to forget about the superfluous, which is often what costs the most! Namely: the service, the walls of the restaurant, the dishes, etc. On the street, we only pay for food and labor!

Can you enlighten us about Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian cuisines? For example, in Vietnam I ate a Thai pad with kimchi...

The Thai pad is Thai, the kimchi is Korean! It's just the mix of cultures and the openness of Asia. The different cuisines merge and that's magic. It's like eating an Angus beef burger in the middle of Paris. The burger is of German origin, then it grew in the United States, and the meat is Scottish. That's great! For me, everything is fusion, even the birth of the most traditional recipes... For example, I'm sure you don't know that sauerkraut is Chinese... but it is!

Do you still find the opportunity to visit Bangkok? And do you have any favorite restaurants to recommend to our readers?

I must admit that I haven't been able to travel much for about the last four or five years ... I started a family, I became a mother, I work a hundred miles per hour with Pitaya, everything's become more complicated and I do miss Bangkok! The great thing about Bangkok is that you can eat everywhere. If you are looking for culinary treasures, you can find some on Yaowarat Road or in the neighborhood of Ari. Change of scenery guaranteed!

In Bangkok I found the dessert menu often limited, no ice ... For a country where it's hot all year, there are surprisingly few cold dishes ...

Yes! We like to eat hot in Asia! For the technical details: there aren't many refrigeration systems. So it's rare to eat cold and especially on the street. And finally, for the sake of your stomach, it's better to cook your ingredients, if you know what I mean! The freshness in the dishes is produced in Asia by the presence of aromatic herbs and spices! Otherwise, we like to eat fresh fruit but accompanied by chillies!

“ We like to eat fresh fruit but accompanied by chillies! ”

Why did you stop your food truck project?

For a very sad story that I will name in one word: the Batacan. Overnight, the Vigipirate plan turned against us. We no longer had the right to park and in some places, people did not want to eat outside ... It's as simple as that.

What did your visit to MasterChef tv show reveal?

That cooking was truly and deeply a passion to me. Before, I wasn't completely sure. And most importantly, I never had enough self-confidence. I didn't appreciate how good I was, what I knew. I took one job after the other simply because I had to work. The notion of passion in work did not even exist and in fact I was not looking for it. But it's true that I reflected on the fact that my main source of pleasure was to return home at night and cook. Then I received an email for the casting MasterChef... and everything went very fast from there.

Since three years you've been in charge of the menu at Pitaya Resto ...

Basically, Pitaya had just contacted me as a consultant to make them a recipe for a special occasion. Then an alchemy was simply sparked. I liked the fact that they managed to restore all the excitement of the street in a restaurant, with the flaming woks, the fresh dishes, simple and delicious... It was like a food truck but in a restaurant! The promise and the authenticity were palpable to me. And I was in a period of absolute frustration: for five years I'd wandered around the world to participate in restaurant openings and the co-ordination of menus, but I had yet to find my own home of sorts. My mother was also quite ill and I wanted to take care of her. So when Pitaya offered me the job, I thought it was a sign: I was finally going to unpack my bags for a good while.

In France most people don't eat very spicy foods. How did you adapt your recipes?

Aaah, my greatest frustration! It's still crazy to me, because just across the Channel, our English friends are perfectly used to eating spicy food! In France, the flavors are subtle. The tastes are round and generous: cream, butter, simmered or candied dishes! We are used to these kinds of flavors from childhood. No way to burn the palate with too much spice! So in truth, I work the flavors of Pitaya as if I cooked like a French person! I'm looking for balance, I work sparingly, I look for roundness with ingredients like coconut milk, I balance the flavors with a touch of sugar, I have lots of little tricks... And for lovers of spices, sauces are available in self-service to season your dish as you please!



Do you buy food at local suppliers or do you import Asian products?

Oh yes, we have no choice. We make our ingredients in Thailand like our noodles or our rice. There are some rice fields in Camargue but it wouldn't go with our dishes at all!

Can you tell us where you find kalamansi and tell us about your current selection of desserts?

Kalamansi is a magical citrus fruit that I've eaten ever since I was little, squeezed into a glass of water, with a small spoonful of sugar. An excellent fresh, rapid glass of lemonade. The taste is somewhere between a mandarin, lime, grapefruit ... it's so delicious, you have to taste it to believe it. The other desserts vary according to the seasons. At the moment, we have a lush double black chocolate mousse and coconut and Japanese sweet rice balls cooked like a rice pudding, with coconut milk and a fresh mango coulis.

How did the layout of the Pitaya come together?

We worked with an architect. And the whole team has a say on artistic design, it was a very rewarding experience! The goal was simply to try to transport you to a small street in Bangkok as soon as you set foot in the restaurant. I hope we've succeeded.

What would you like to cook at Pitaya in the near future?

Our kitchens are very small so it is currently difficult to develop our menu, as in a real street restaurant. But we are starting to find solutions. It will happen soon.

How to explain the success of Pitaya Resto?

We realized that besides the desire to eat Thai and to travel to Pitaya, our customers also felt the need to eat well while eating within a short amount of time. Our kitchen is open, everything is transparent, customers see that we use only fresh ingredients, the dish is cooked for them on the spot. And people need that today. Authenticity, products, real raw materials.

You also intervene for the musical selections in the restaurant ...

I'm creating a new playlist for Pitaya every month. This is a bit of the advantage of our generation, we're at ease with most software, from Photoshop to any social network platform... And since I am quite a geek, I like making playlists, even if it can be a tedious job, it is exciting. Basically, I'm on the lookout for new discoveries. I listen to music all the time. As soon as I hear a sound that I like, I set it aside for future listening.

Do you own a turntable?

Not just a turntable! I have a beautiful Pro-Ject record player in olive-stained wood finish. I love vinyl records. I have also framed many, put them up as decoration, at home. The latest one I framed was a Metronomy Lp.

Do you listen to music frequently?

All the time, as much as I can. My life follows a rhythm. I spend a lot of time on the train, so I listen to music all the time. I get the most out of my Spotify subscription!

You seem attached to what is organic, to the point of writing a book...

Before MasterChef, I wanted to be a film director. My best friend is a director and he had put me on that path, because he had seen my passion for writing, photography and music was constantly present. I just needed cooking to tie it all together. So yes, writing a cookbook, it makes me feel great. I feel like it's just a drop in the ocean, especially when I know how often certain recipes have been printed, again and again.

So what's special about your book?

For the Pitaya book, I wanted to mix the traditional recipes of my family, while also bringing a twist of modernity, reflecting the present in some way. The seasonings in this are more modern. I also wanted to adapt the recipes to a typical kitchen, or a typical housewife. Not everyone is lucky enough to have a wok at home, like in our restaurants. So I adapted some things to suit what everyone had: a frying pan.

Do you have other projects in the works?

Yes. Continuing the Pitaya story, which has only just begun. These are just the first lines, I'm sure. When I arrived three years ago, we had a dozen restaurants. Today, there are thirty-five. At the end of the year, there will be at eighty. We remain open to international interests. The story is completely crazy, but it's all been extremely satisfying.

One final word ?

If traveling to Bangkok is out of your reach, a Pitaya Restaurant may not be far!



**“ I love vinyls.
I listen to music all
the time. As soon as I
hear a sound that I like,
I set it aside for the future
Pitaya Resto playlist ”**

THE SUBWAY LINE THAT RUNS FROM SUVARNABHUMI BANGKOK AIRPORT TO PHAYA THAI STATION WAS OUR MAIN POINT OF REFERENCE AS IT STRETCHES FROM EAST TO WEST AND CUTS THROUGH THE CITY CENTER. THOUGH TEN TIMES LARGER THAN PARIS, HUNTING FOR VINYL SHOPS IN THAILAND'S CAPITAL CITY PROVED TO BE MORE OF A CHALLENGE THAN ONE MIGHT IMAGINE. THE MAJORITY OF VINYLS WE CAME ACROSS WERE ROCK, POP, FOLK, WORLD MUSIC AND EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT OF HIP-HOP RECORDS HERE AND THERE. WE WERE MAINLY HOPING TO DIG UP SOME OBSCURE ASIAN ALBUMS AND SINGLES, BUT WE ALSO FOUND SOME QUALITY AFRO AND GROOVE RECORDS.

Rec : Ladproa Road (Exit 2 from MRT Phaholyothin)

This shop was further away than most we visited in the north of the capital. The hand-picked selection is minimal but growing steadily. The area is quaint and colorful, and the dapper decor makes perfect sense when you discover that the budding record store is actually a café / restaurant, first and foremost.

CENTER - NORTH

HOF (Hall Of Fame Records) / Nik Studio / P&P Audio & Vinyl are located one flight up at the Fortune Town Mall (1 Ratchadaphisek Road), in the heart of the city. The crates are mainly stocked with rock, pop and folk, but you never know what you might find. We were slightly more delighted to find the Train Night Market, an outdoor market just a few minutes walk away (near the Thailand Cultural Center subway station). As the name suggests, it is open until midnight. And if the obsessed digger in you is wondering... it's not that kind of market, no vinyls there.

Garage Records : Lad Phrao soi 8 (yaek 9)

The selection of records and cassettes (new or second hand), is mainly composed of garage, rock and Cds of mostly pop from the 80's, 90's up to today. The opening hours, from 4 pm to midnight, are part of the main attraction, perfect for some late-night shopping.

HYPER-CENTER

Zudrangma Records : 7/1 Sukhumvit 51, Wattana
They're open from 12 to 8 pm, Wednesday through Saturday. There's something for everyone, new and used vinyls covering most styles of music except EDM & techno. They also have a wide selection of world music, with several 7-inch bins devoted purely to luk thung & molam. We're proud to have the club's director Maft as the subject of our Rare Wax section, nicely rounding out issue number 50

8 Musique : 218/ 1 Sukhumvit Road

Open all week from 10 to 9:30 pm. The selection of new vinyls is varied, but the majority of releases are Cds. To be completely honest, we're still looking for the entrance!

DIGGIN' IN BKK

Tonchabab Record Shop

NORTH

Vinyl & Toys : 19/9 Pradit Manutham Road, Lat Phrao

The shop is located in an industrial area, but the building has its own charm, regardless. The selection is mainly second-hand and is rather wide in range of styles and artists, with many Japanese imports. They also sell equipment for DJs, hi-fi systems and many vintage toys. The timeless gadgets are noticeable throughout the shop, making it feel somewhat like a museum. They also have a café with an outdoor terrace as well as large leather armchairs inside for chilling. You should stop by, if only to take a quick selfie in the Dj booth.

Fat Black Record : 1420/1 Pradit Manutham Road, Khwaeng Khlong Chan, Khet Bang Kapi

The shop is located on the ground floor of Crystal Design Center, a modern shopping mall. we were disappointed to find only a meager selection, mostly new releases, at relatively steep prices. Even though the shop is a mere 10-minute walk from Vinyl and Toys, it's not necessarily worth crossing a busy, 6-lane road to get there...

Bungkhumhouse Records : (Ex - 1979 Vinyl and Unknown Pleasures) 125/18 Sukumvit55

Open from 13 to 9 pm, they're on the fourth floor of a small building on a dead-end street. We were surprised to find the shop open on January 1st! The selection is eclectic but rock and pop dominate the bins. The boss, Dj Gonloha, is as stylish as he is passionate. There is a lovely terrace and a special selection of releases by local musicians.

WEST (near the river)

Bryter Layter Cafe : 12/5 Thanon Arun Amarin

It is the furthest shop to the west, they sell books, clothes and decorative items as well as food and drink. There are few vinyls but the boogie-funk selection is heavy. Unfortunately, they were closed, for some odd reason, so we weren't able to get a closer look...

Tonchabab Record Shop : 10 Boonsiri Road

Between the Chao Praya River and the royal district of Rattanakosin, where the opulent Grand Palace and its sacred temple Wat Phra Kaeo are located, this shop is two minutes from Sanam Luang. The shop is small but it is full of vinyl records and cassettes, mostly Asian music. It's not all too easy to come across many lost gems as many have come already seeking hidden treasures. But one must visit, if not only for its picturesque setting and impressive history.

M - Tanakorn Records : 524 Luang Road

Unfortunately, we didn't have time to visit this shop. It seems well stocked, especially in 7-inches of Thai music.

Vinyl Die Hards : 1F The Ninth Place Serviced Residence, opposite to Paradise Park, Srinakarin Road
Open from 10 to 8 pm, this store is run by the children of the boss of PS Audio, a famous record store which finally closed after decades of loyal service to music lovers. There is also a wide selection of vintage hi-fi equipment and vinyls, starting around 100 baht for used records.

SOUTH

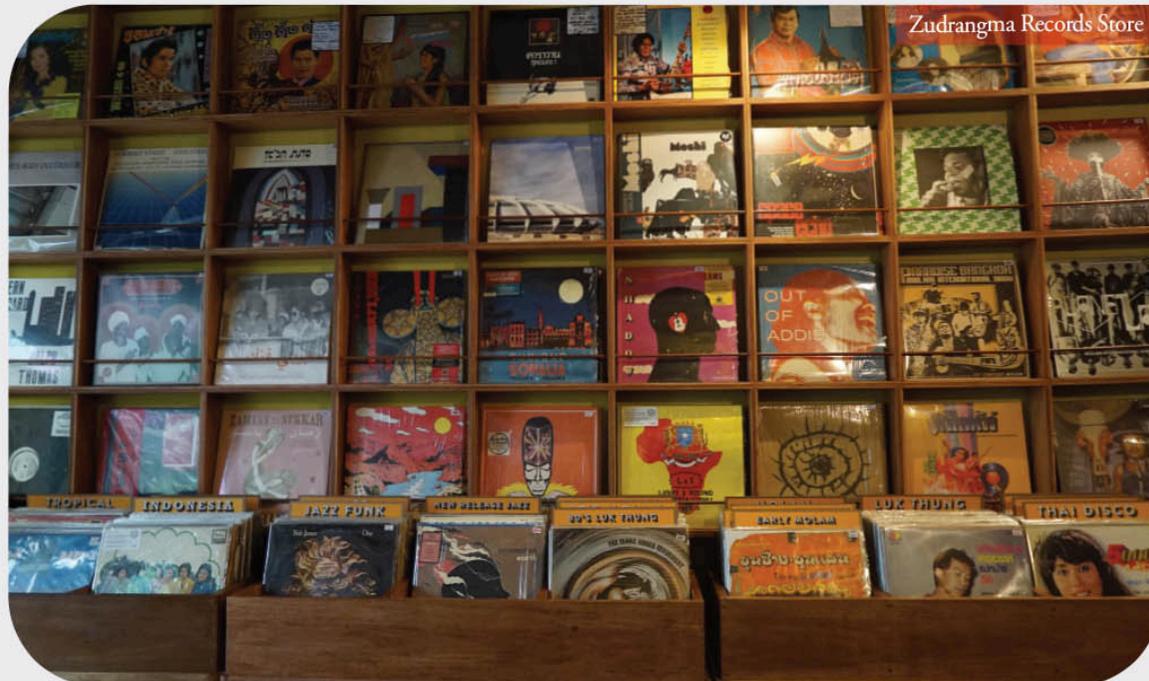
Hidden Tracks Records : 8/209 Supalai Ville, Soi Sridan 3, Srinakarin Road

The musical genres range from electro to indie pop, rock and r & b, new and second-hand. The owner is a movie freak and sells movies, posters and a selection of film soundtracks.

Big Tiger Records, some record stores, traveling dealers of sorts such as the Olympic Digger Collective, gather at markets such as the Made By Legacy vintage market, to sell and trade their vinyls. Open from 3 pm to midnight, the event celebrated their tenth edition in January at Sermsuk Warehouse. www.madebylegacy.com



Bungkhumhouse Records Store



Zudrangma Records Store



Vinyl & Toys Store

DJS NUM & PHAZE APICHAT PAKWAN



APICHAT PAKWAN IS BORN FROM THE MEETING OF ANKANANG NUM PIMWANKUM AND OLIVIER SCHREUDER. FRESH AND INNOVATIVE, THIS PROJECT IS THE PERFECT EMBODIMENT OF THE ETHOS EXPRESSED THROUGH THE CURRENT GENERATION OF MOLAM GROUPS, MERGING TRADITIONAL ASIAN INSTRUMENTS AND ELECTRONIC MACHINERY. ORIGINATING FROM ISAN, THIS SCENE IS STILL MODEST BUT ISANTRONICS OPENS NEW PERSPECTIVES IN MUSIC. WE INTERVIEWED THE HEAD BEHIND APICHAT PAKWAN, TO DISCOVER JUST HOW DEEP THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THAI AND LAOTIAN MUSIC WILL TAKE US...

Before the creation of Apichat Pakwan, what were you and the other musicians doing?

Num: I'm trained as a Thai classical musician, but Apichat Pakwan is my first live band. The other members of the group are from Esan's new generation of musicians. And they are still studying at Khon Kaen University, where we met. They are also active in other groups, both in molam and classical Thai music. For our new album, we composed new songs with the singer Anusara "Bee" Deechaichana, who joined the group in 2017. Most of the musicians we work with come from the provinces of Khon Kaen and Maha Sarakham, in the region of Esan.

Is molam inseparable from isan?

Olivier: No, the molam comes from Laos. Some instruments and repertoires probably come from the hill tribes of this region. They are now in the region of Esan or Northeastern Thailand, but it is essentially a music from Laos.

What are the iconic singers and musicians of the 70's and 80's molam & thai funk?

Olivier: I like the voices and the songs of Dao Bandon, Chaweevan Dumnern, Banyen Rakgan, Suphap Daouangden, Onuma Singri, the list is long. Apichat Pakwan is especially influenced by the great players of phin (a lute string instrument, Ed) of the twentieth century as Boonma Khauwong Maha Sarakham and Tongsay Tebtanon of Ubon or Sombat Simla, the master of kaen.

What do your texts evoke? Are they different from the old ones?

Olivier: Each song expresses a different characteristic of the inhabitants of Esan, but it misses an important theme illustrated by songs of molam and luk thung of the past. This is a theme that remains relevant, as many people from Isan still have to emigrate to Bangkok to support their families. They come back only once or twice a year for the holidays. It's painful to bear, and that sadness is what defines molam and luk thung in Thailand, I think.

How do you explain the revival for Isan's music over the last four years?

Olivier: It's a complex question. We have found a way to interpret the molam so as to please the Western world or the Thais oriented towards Western music. The lam sing, a modern and accelerated version of the molam, has almost erased the styles of the past, purely acoustic and Laotian. But, fortunately, the traditional molam is still more popular in Esan. Thanks to the help of several national and international organizations, the most traditional form of molam has been preserved...

I heard during a discussion that most Asians are of Chinese origin. Quid du Huqin, a Chinese string instrument at the base of kaen?

Olivier: The peoples of Asia have a migratory history much more complex than that, I think. The origin of kaen and lahore louthorgan are difficult to trace.

Olivier, you use Eurorack. As a result, no two live sets are the same...

Olivier: Yes. In fact, I use modular synths and a custom computer system to filter sounds. This allows me to process live acoustic instruments and modulate sounds, so each concert is truly unique.

What is the purpose of the object on your finger? It looks like a ring...

Olivier: This is a 3D motion detection system, so the singer and I control digital system parameters while dancing. We like to dance when we play because there are very important traditional movements in Asian music.

Why did you start Animist Records?

Olivier: Animist Records was launched to edit our own music. But it evolves towards a wider platform, for different styles of innovative electronic music or local music.

Can you tell us about your stint on "โม้ทองคำ หมอลำฝั่งเพชร2", is it a reality show like "Show Me The Money Thailand"?

Olivier: Hmm, it's a little different. It's more "Esan Got Talent"...

Do you often go to Bangkok? And do you have any favorite places when you go out there, to listen to good music, like molam?

Olivier: Yes, we go there to play, meet friends and discover new music. But not molam, for that it's better to be in Esan. We have a few places where you can listen to good music like Jam or Noma Bkk.

Otherwise Olivier and Aungkanang, you form a duo of Djs, Dj Phaze and Dj Numnim. How long have you been djing and when did you start mixing Thai music exclusively?

Num: I learned to mix thanks to Olivier. As a record collector and sound enthusiast, he shared his love of vinyl. We like to mix Thai music with Oriental and Laotian with all kinds of tropical and electronic music. I did my first set at Redlight Radio a few months ago. Otherwise, Olivier has been mixing for a long time...

How many vinyls do you have in your collection today? And what is the predominant style?

Olivier: I've never counted them... hip-hop is always the heart of my collection. It is followed by broken beat, jazz, disco, funk, and then Thai, classical and contemporary music.

Did you collect vinyls before becoming Djs?

Olivier : Je ne les ai jamais comptés. Je peux toujours traverser ma maison... Le hip-hop est toujours le cœur de ma collection. Il est suivi par le broken beat, le jazz, la disco, la funk, puis la musique thaïlandaise, classique et contemporaine.

You also know the Vietnamese music scene quite well. How do you find interesting vinyls these days? I heard there aren't many record stores...

Olivier: There are usually records in antique shops and second-hand shops. But you must know how to speak a minimum of Vietnamese, otherwise it's difficult.

Do you prefer performing as Djs or live musicians?

Olivier: I prefer concerts but DJing is super nice. It's like second nature.

You are also a speaker ...

Olivier: I was a lecturer during my university studies in music technology. But recently, I became a professor of electronic music for what we call, in the Netherlands, specialized education. This concerns people with autism, Down syndrome, the blind or deaf and more generally those with disabilities. What's interesting is that electronic music can stimulate their talents. It pushes their limits.

Do you also give music lessons with traditional instruments?

Olivier: Yes, I do this in my special education classes and I sometimes teach gamelan (traditional Indonesian chime instrument, Ed.) to children in primary schools in the Netherlands, which is absolutely fantastic.

Are you also passionate about playing video games or do you only make music for them?

Olivier: I feel lucky not to be addicted to video games, but I have always liked playing them. And since I'm really addicted to music and sound, I like working in the video game industry as a sound producer...

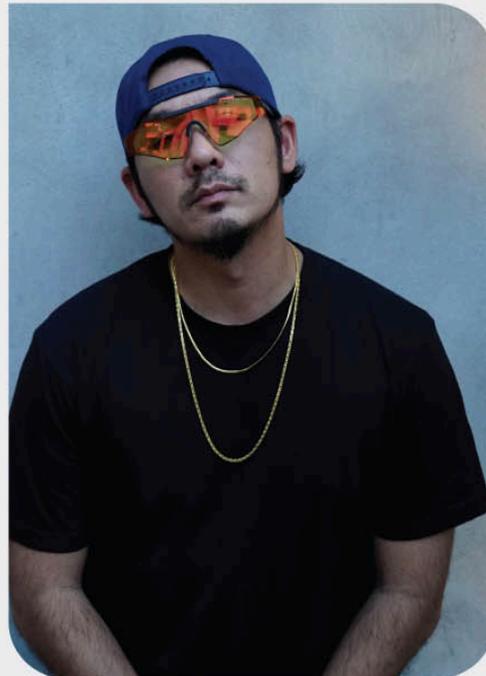
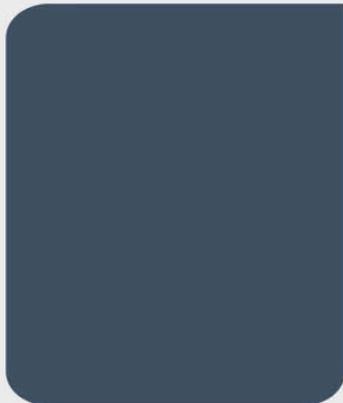
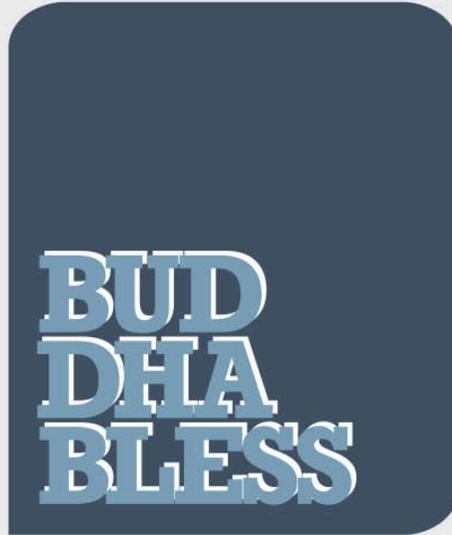
You also worked with Kindred Spirits. This label has since shut down...

Olivier: Yes, indeed the label has stopped. But one of the founders, Antal, still manages Rush Hour and has launched a new label called Super Sonic Jazz.

Do you have other projects?

Olivier: Num and I are working on a project for which we are developing a new hybrid form that merges electronic and Asian music. We hope to present this soon. I'm also working on a project that combines gamelan and electronic music, with my good friend Michiel Niemantsverdriet. He is the most talented gamelan player in the Netherlands.





THAILAND IS CURRENTLY LIVING THROUGH THE GOLDEN ERA FOR RAP. APART FROM JOEYBOY AND DJ SPYDAMONK, BUDDHA BLESS IS ONE OF THE LEGENDARY ARTISTS IN THE THAI HIP-HOP INDUSTRY. WHILE IT CAN SOMETIMES PROVE TO BE DIFFICULT TO FIND THE 90S ARCHIVES ONLINE, SOME OF THESE ARTISTS HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN ACTIVE IN THIS MUSIC INDUSTRY FOR TWO DECADES. THE THAI HIP-HOP SCENE HAS GROWN SO SIGNIFICANTLY TODAY THAT THERE ARE EVEN TWO INFLUENTIAL TV SHOWS... AND BUDDHA BLESS IS ONE OF THE MEMBER OF THE JURY. INTERVIEWED HERE IN BANGKOK WITH MC TONG AND GUIOUI, ALSO A BEATMAKER.

When did you first started Mcing?

Oui: 18years ago.

Tong: around 20 years ago.

The first time you've got approached in the music business industry?

Oui: 13 years ago.

Tong: I started out in the underground scene with friends. Our group call A.Y.M which stands for Ai Yed Mae (motherfucker). And one day I asked him if he was interested to do a dancehall album. So we left AYM and followed what we like during that time. JoeyBoy was the one who hooked us up with the Big Music Label. And we have created Buddha Bless.

Your first album was produced by Spydamonk. How did you get connected ?

Tong: He was JoeyBoy's friend and also Gancore Club's producer. So JoeyBoy asked him to help us out with the album.

Let's talk about Bkk & Thailand. When you first started Mcing, what was happening around you?

Oui: Not mass interest in MC. Mostly teenagers

Tong: Just few small clubs that play hiphop tunes. We were like the minority. Every party you see has the familiar faces and everyone knows each other. I was also with the bboy crew. My friends write graffiti and only few would be DJs because we were still young and couldn't afford to buy the turntable.

And who were the other influential Djs, Mcs, beatmakers, bboys, etc in the scene?

Tong: As a Buddha Bless. i was really into Sean Paul, Beenie Man, Elephant Man, TOK more like reggae dancehall artists. But I grew up with the Hip-Hop Inna Golden Era. For local artists, Joey Boy was a big inspiration. (Joey Boy releases his first album in 1995, which introduces Hip-Hop to Bkk. The album goes on to sell over a million copies nationwide – Ed.).

And how about today? Is the scene bigger? Are there a lot more new comers, more beatmaker, etc?

Oui: Yes, much bigger. There's a lot of new beatmakers over the past 3 years.

Tong: I could say this is the golden era of hip-hop in Thailand. Nowadays, there's a lots of new MCs who could make a living by doing just their music work.

Is Bangkok the most influential in hip-hop scene of Thailand?

Tong: Yes. But North, South, East and North-Eastern region of Thailand all have their own music scene going on too.

What is missing in BKK and what would you hope to see that exists?

Oui: Food

Tong: I would love to see hip-hop scene staying inna long run. I am just afraid it is happening now as a trend only.

Any tips on where to go dancing and what to listen for rap music in Bkk?

Oui: I don't go partying outside or clubbing so I don't know.

Tong: For commercial Hip-Hop and Trap it's so easy to find the place to crash. In every night club spot you would find a Hip-Hop club. For the old school Hip-Hop and other types it's more like a small party happening like once a month.

“Nowadays, there's a lots of new MCs who could make a living by doing just their music work.”

And where can we go to discover the best local food?

Oui: The food court in Siam Paragon.

Tong: Checkout the application called Wongnai.

What is your Home recording studio set up like?

Oui: There is an Apogee duet, MacBook pro, Mic Rode NT2, Yamaha NS10, MPC2500 and the MPC Studio.

Do you still participate in battles?

Oui: No

Tong: I don't do battles.

What is the difference between Show Me The Money Thailand or K-Battle Thailand?

Tong: The rules and the way it's performed in each round are different. Also the way worked behind the scenes. In Show Me The Money, we have to work a lot with our team members to create songs and show. And K-Battle is not a TV show.

Which of the two competitions at the highest level?

Tong: I believe both shows have similar levels. Depending on each MC.

What is the most memorable experience you have since you've started in this career?

Tong: There was a big event that we performed once. Our stage had a power shutdown. So we moved to the next stage and people followed us. And then it got shut down again. So we moved to another one and people still followed us. That was an awesome feeling.

And your worst memory ?

Tong: We don't really have any.

Do you have other passions ? What are they?

Tong: I'm into Martial Arts. Capoeira and Jiu-jitsu. I am also running a website called www.heavy69.com

Oui: I am practicing Vipassana meditation in Buddhism





PASS POUR
SINGA
POUR

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR NASTY GRAFFITI, ABANDONED HANGARS AND DARK, ILLEGAL VENUES, SG IS NOT THE SPOT. HOWEVER, THE UNDERGROUND SCENE IS ALIVE AND THRIVING IN NUMEROUS BARS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS & BOUNTIFUL RECORD SHOPS. THE SCENERY AND BUDGET DIFFERS GREATLY TO WHAT WE WERE USED TO IN BANGKOK, BUT, COMPARISONS ASIDE, SG DIDN'T FAIL TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON US BOTH. WITH ITS BEACHES, ROOFTOP TERRACES AND SPORTS COMPLEXES, ONE CAN EASILY FEEL WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE LIVING IN A GIANT, FUTURISTIC AMUSEMENT PARK. THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVE AT THE ULTRAMODERN AIRPORT, THE TONE IS SET. IF YOU DEVIATE FROM THE LINE YOU'RE WAITING IN, AN AGENT USHERS YOU BACK IN PLACE... SO, SURE, IT IS NICE TO FEEL SAFE IN PUBLIC PLACES, BUT IS IT ACTUALLY POSSIBLE TO LET LOOSE & HAVE FUN IN SG? WE SOUGHT OUT POSSIBLE ANSWERS TO THIS EXOTIC ENIGMA...

The city shines radiantly, the floor of the airport is so clean that one could eat lying face-down. Let's not forget that this city, or should I say, the whole country, is twice as small as the city of Bkk. So it's a little simpler to keep things in perspective when one keeps that in mind ... The only airport is close to the city center. Taxi, bus or subway are the available modes of transportation. You won't come across a single sticker or a graffiti tag along the city streets ... Some have still managed to bomb and tag the subway trains, on rare occasions. Consider yourself warned, in any case, as fines are steep, and one can risk beatings and even prison. The strength of Sg is its multicultural wealth, replacing an obvious hierarchy of what a "typical local" profile is. Between American, African, Australian, Indian and Eurasian expatriates... in addition to the Chinese and Muslim populations, one can only imagine how complicated it must be to keep up with regular cultural and religious holidays, rituals and ceremonies. But what happens to young people who dream of freedom? Are their perspectives limited to getting fucked up in individual karaoke booths? Fortunately, since the early 2000s, urban cultures have made a place for themselves. They're obviously catching up with the rest of the world gradually... the first skatepark in Bali was built in 2005...

Now that we have sketched the outlines of this pleasant landscape where the sale of alcohol over-the-counter is prohibited after 22:30, let us get to the heart of the matter. Despite the country's recent history, we are in Asia, nevertheless. As a French person, it's of use to know that when you're meeting someone for the first time, a kiss on the cheek, as we do is strictly out of the question. It seems a little sterile from my own perspective but, believe me, it is possible to have fun and break free of the protocol, regardless. Edm, as in so many places around the world, has its own place in the local club scenes. We don't feel that it's our mission to dwell on a subject that's so widely covered already, so we'll move along. The red light district of Geylang is the last island of cultural resistance in the country. Rave culture is not dead: the young collective Horizon99 is the proof of that. Skinheads, queers, punks and other party goers smoke, chat and dance to Djs like Ponzi Palace or Gothhobbit, spinning techno, gabber and noisy electro sets.

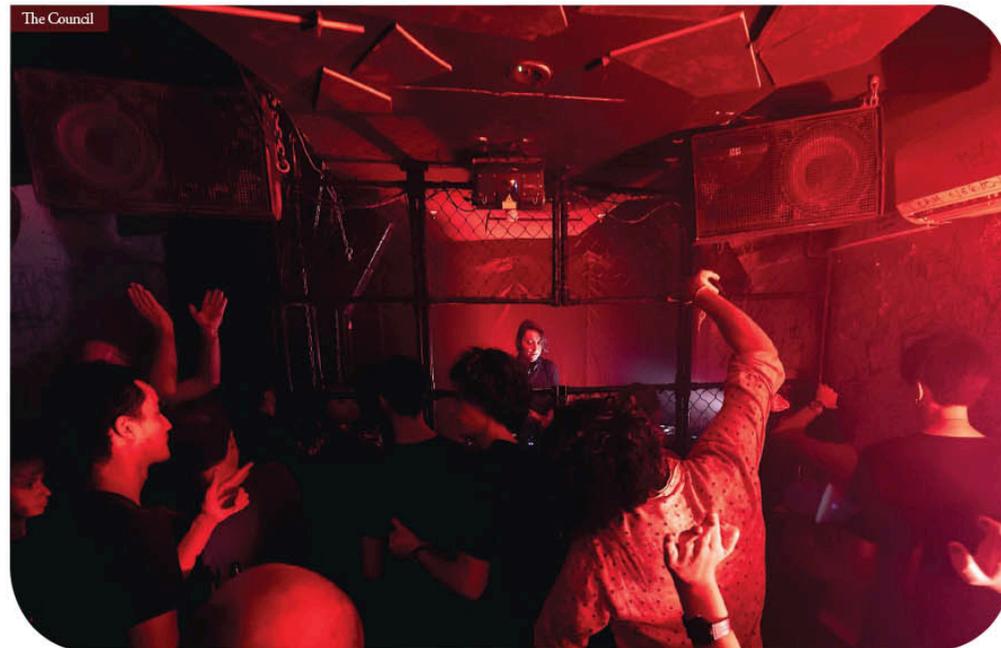
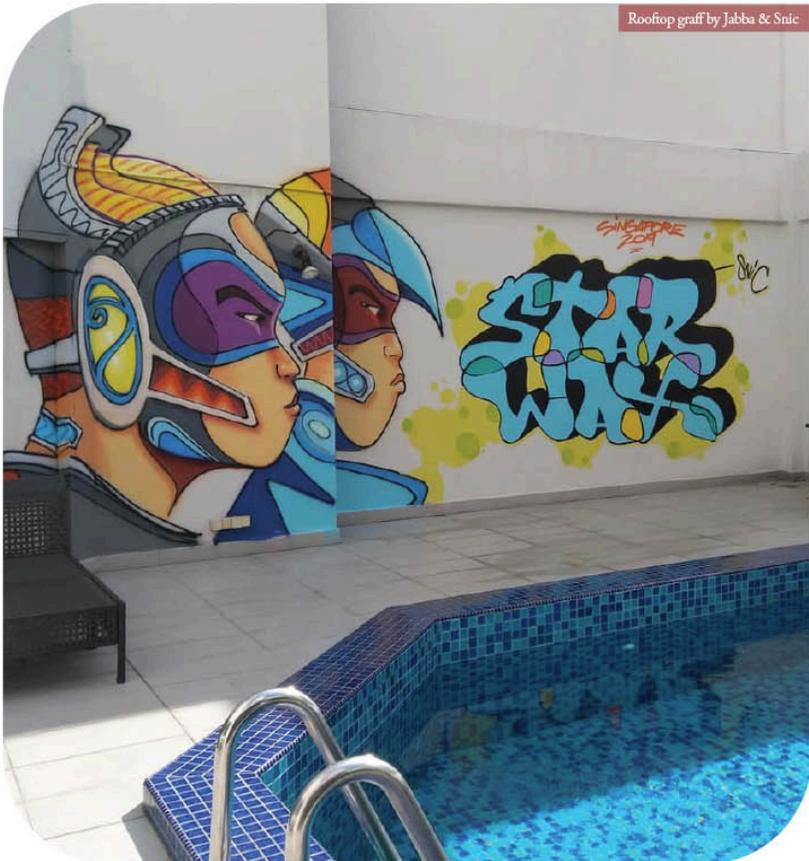
Philosophically, the experimental music of the Ujikaji labels and the Hail Satan label also prove the existence of a dynamic counter-culture. There is also Geylang Afro Rock Band, affiliated with Kribo Rec. The band still performs regularly at The Panic Room. For how much longer, you ask? Nobody really knows.

Otherwise, in the spirit of Berlin, with its reasonable proportions and minimalist decor, The Council Sg is one of the only recent establishments to have accurately assimilated European design values so successfully. Apparently, before finally deciding on opening a fixed venue, the promoters had many ephemeral parties in unusual places. The roof of The Projector, a cinema with alternative programming was one such venue. Intermission Bar is in the same building, and the artistic direction is open to musical discovery. While we were there, the first edition of Afrodisia, an evening dedicated to world music (afro, funk, house...) was taking place. Afrodisia was the initiative of DJ Rushmo, a South African who recently moved to Sg. Among the guest Djs were sure-shots like Jasmyn, Sadat ... Record label White Label features quality Djs with varied styles, from Thursday to Saturday, from 9 pm to midnight, though label nights are somewhat new to Sg. Concerning labels, we had the same remarks as in Bkk: there are very few labels of prolific current music, in general. But Darker Than Wax sets a good example thanks to its catalog of nu soul, hip-hop, modern funk, future beats ... And in a dance music register, there is Dustpan Recordings. Female group Attagirl ! is composed of Djs A/k/a Sounds, Durio, Kinnie, Fatim, Jaydahhh, Vj Empryreal and Vj Collective Non Sense. These girls play a tasteful selection of varied styles of electronic music mixing footwork, jungle, bass music, juke, house... They are not the only ones, as I also noticed other names in the scene, such as Dj Rah and Debbie Chia.

Another major figure worth mentioning is without a doubt, DJ Ollie'des. He's been mixing for over ten years and is currently resident DJ at Nineteen 80 Bar. The spot mainly bumps hip-hop, r & b, funk, dancehall, dubstep and trap. But the oldest figure in the scene is Andrew Chow, who was resident DJ of the Zouk Club, between 1995 and 2011. He's one of the few people who can pay witness to the evolution of this iconic club. Generations come and go, but Andrew Chow is still there. He went to live in Bkk for a while, but he eventually returned. Of course DJ Ko Flow, interviewed in this issue, is among the top Hip-Hop DJs, alongside DJ Anrev (creator of Phuture DJ Battle). This scene is much older and active than the reggae heads. There not many sound systems other than Mantra's (interviewed in this issue), Lion Steppaz Sound, Singapura Dub Club or Dub Skankin Hifi. There are also heads representing the Latin scene: DJ Ashish Diwan, DJ Jason Lim, DJ Haihan Ht and DJ Yuma alias Kevin Aubry, in Sg since 2015 a huge fan of salsa, timba, bachata and kizomba.

Getting back to the basics, here is a list of a number of must-visit spots: Velvet Underground for techno and house, Kilo Lounge for its eclectic vibes and its international guests, 1-Altitude Rooftop for a great view of the whole city. And there are many bars with DJs that close around midnight. At the top of the list, go chill on the terrace of Potato Head, the coolies of rare groove selections. If you prefer skyscrapers, go to Cé La Vi or Kinki Rooftop Bar... And every Sunday, DJs mix in the afternoon at Tanjong Beach Club.

Sg hosts more than one music festival. Other festivals include: Laneway, Zoukout, Neon Lights, Mosaic, Ultra Singapore, It's The Ship, or IMI17 which also host digital art installations, round-table discussions... With your pass you can connect directly to the pages of the artists, events or places. And do not miss nightlife. Because, yes, it is possible to have fun on this island also called Singapura in Malay!





Red Point Shop

DIGGIN' IN SG

Many record stores are located in or around the Chinatown area, in the "hyper center" of Sg, easily recognized by the characteristically colorful buildings. Otherwise they are often found in shopping arcades and malls. There are others, of course... some shops are a bit out of the way, but definitely worth the detour. Red Point is a good example of the latter, and the shop is actually on the third floor of a huge warehouse.

Singapore Chinatown Street Market

As with the shopping arcades, there are always several entrances to access the covered market. Even locals can get lost in the many passages. There are basically three record stalls with a few vinyls, all on the ground floor. The only one we could identify was Foo Leong Record.

White Label Records : 28, Ann Siang Road

This lovely shop is located on a charming street corner and it's also a bar which serves simple dishes as well. But there are few record bins. So one might not be impressed by the selection but the vibe is nice, and on weekends the street is closed to automobile traffic at night, so DJs come to spin... It's the ideal place to meet people.

Hecc Records : Banda Street, #01-98 Blk 5

There mainly sell second-hand records and the styles vary. This are no real surprises for experienced collectors, but it certainly depends on the styles you're hunting for. The owner has two shops now and the newer of the two is more generously stocked. Shop #2 can be found at 175B Bencoolen Street, just next to the entrance of the Burlington Square building.

City Hall : 1, Coleman Street

From Chinatown head down to City Hall ... a passage which is the meeting place for audiophiles. Hidden among the many boutiques selling household appliances, you'll find Roxy Disc House, Memory Lane, Vinylicious and other relatively big shops. Some sell a lot of CDs and stock the same releases on vinyl, new and used, but we weren't extremely impressed by the selection. BUT, if you have the time (and especially if you like rock, pop or classical...) you'll probably want to dig through some of the crates, as one never knows...

Peninsula Shopping Centre : 3, Coleman Street

In the neighboring block, there is another gallery with two shops we found to be more interesting than those in City Hall. Mosta, for example, is small but the selection is much more varied. Don't forget to visit Vinyl Kakis, where part of the shop is made of giant Lego blocks. It's run by a couple who also sells hip-hop, pop, rock and Chinese music ...

The Analog Vault : Esplanade Mall, 8 Raffles Avenue

Less than ten minutes from Coleman Street's old shops, be sure not to miss The Analog Vault. Located on the 1st floor of a modern shopping arcade, they have an impressively eclectic selection of new releases. The prices are slightly intimidating, but what we found was certainly worth every penny...

Curated Records : 55, Tiong Bahru Road

Another small shop located 2 km from Chinatown but north-west, in an area where the first houses on the island were originally built. They mostly sell new releases. Fans of rock, metal, pop ... this shop is for you!

Sense Music Store / S2S Office : 28 N Canal Road

The easiest way is to check out the shop's SoundCloud page and make up your own mind!

The Barber Shop Music : 1311A Geyland Road

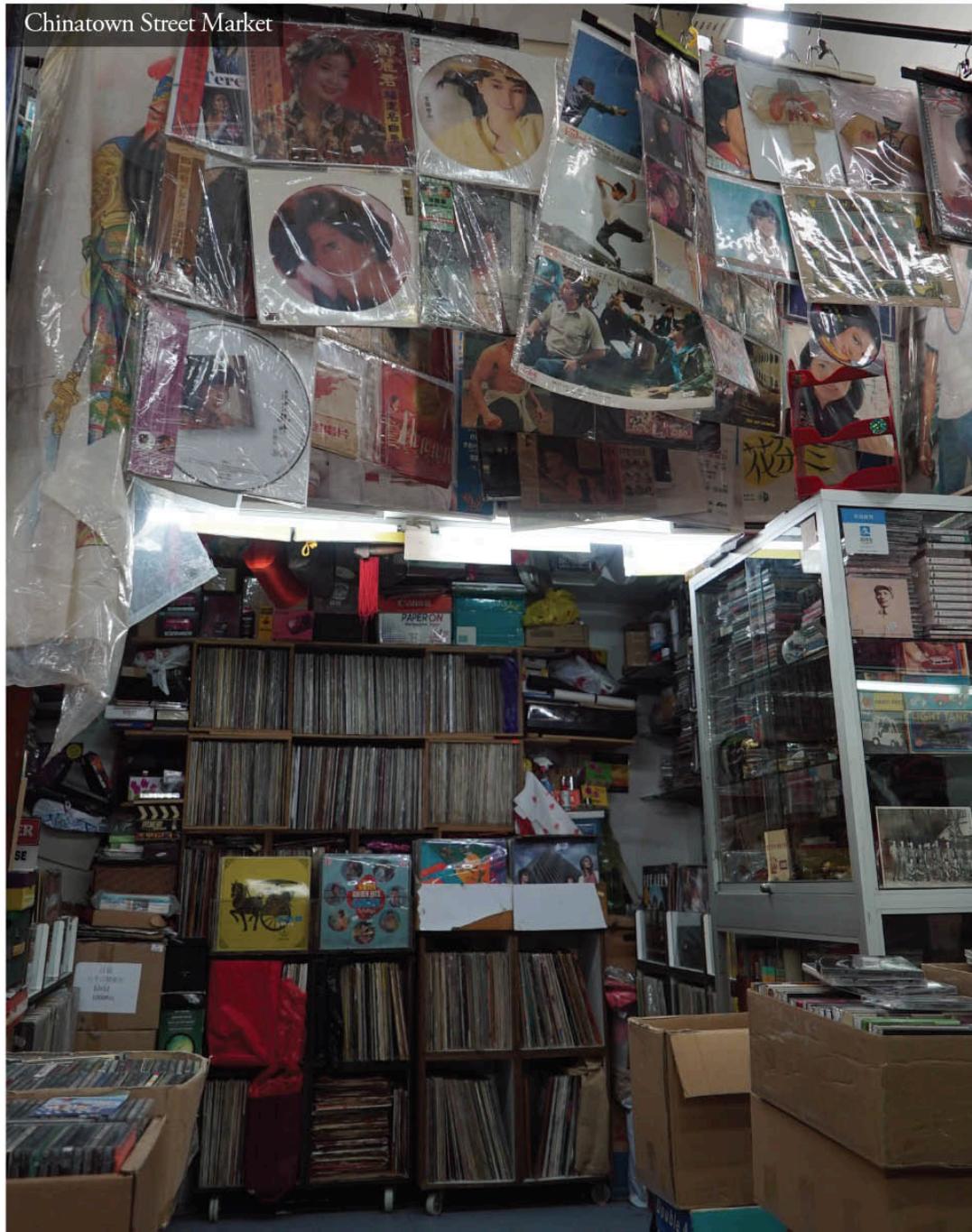
This is the most rock n'roll record store in Sg. We feel the punk spirit in this shop which is actually a space at The Panic Room, a barber concept store on the 1st floor. There are not many bins but there is a good selection of 7 and 12-inches. Of course there is a lot of rock but also Hip-Hop, Soul-funk and World music... including a variety of 7-inches from Hope Street Recordings. In the middle there is equipment set up for Djing and the boss' crates (which aren't for sale). Sometimes he mixes or there are showcases by local artists. He also runs a label called Hail Satan Records. Thanks to The Barber Shop, the building and neighborhood have much more charm than one might expect...

Choice Cuts Goods + Coffee : 451, Joo Chiat Road

One sees many stores in big shopping malls, all over Sg., but this shop is actually quite cozy because it's a small mall and they are on the ground floor. It's run by young people who seem up-to-date with the current trends and fashions. They make their own bread and other tasty treats. There are few new records and the selection is pleasantly eclectic, including vinyls for scratch Djs. There are often in-store Djs sets and showcases. It's located in Katong, which is trendy but less touristic than the hyper-center.

RetroCrates : 448a, Joo Chiat Road

Just across the street from Choice Cuts, in the local enclave of Katong, the shop is packed full of reissues, mainly 12-inch releases of pop, rock, various vocal genres and a nice bin with 45s of Japanese imports, Us pop and 90's movie music. It's bright and spacious with a bean-bag and a corner, reminiscent of the first Virgin shop in San Francisco, back in the 70s. In June 2018, they opened up at The Jazz Loft, it was a space reserved for jazz records, reissues, most particularly. Fans of Kylie Minogue will be pleased to know that RetroCrates has reissued her album "Fever". If you are looking for rare nuggets of funk, soul or afro, do not bother digging here ...



Chinatown Street Market

Red Point : Blk B #06-11, 80 Playfair Road

This is the ultimate pspot in Sg, with more than 70,000 vinyls to dig through... That's why we named it "The temple". You must take off your shoes to enter. There is only second-hand vinyl, Afro-American and Asian music from 3 euros, and records that are not for sale, for whatever reason. The bins are mostly filled with music from China, Hong Kong ... The big headache is finding a good time to go ther, as they're only open from Thursday to Saturday. Yes, the rest of the time, the boss is out hunting for boxes of 7 & 12-inches. Note that some places provide stools, which is especially practical for scanning vinyls located downstairs.

We did not have time to visit, but there are also Dark Chocolate Records (Serangoon Ave 1, # 02-217 Block 425), Straits Records (24 Bali Ln) and Vinyl Records & Antique Collectibles(# 01-18, 5001 Beach Road), Music Store Sense / S2S Office: 28 N Canal Road. Then the record store furthest from the center: QQ Music Store (Blk 28 Sin Ming Lane, # 05-135 Midview City).

MANTRA YESA



MUSICIAN AND PRODUCER ALSO KNOWN FOR HIS DJ SKILLS, MANTRA IS A NATIVE OF SINGAPORE. AS THE LEADER OF REGGAE REMEDY, HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE OF THE RARE LOCAL SOUND SYSTEMS IN SINGAPORE. HE ALSO HEADS THE INSTIGATOR AFROBEAT ORCHESTRA. IN A TROPICAL LANDSCAPE WITH LUXURIOUS GARDENS PUNCTUATED BY IMPECCABLE SKYSCRAPERS, THE LOCALS KEEP UP THE GOOD FIGHT TO PROMOTE NEW ARTISTS, LABELS & UNDERGROUND SOUNDS. WE MET UP WITH MANTRA YESA AT THE TANJONG BEACH CLUB, HE TOOK US THROUGH A NUMBER OF HIS MANY EXPERIENCES WITHIN THE SG MUSIC SCENE.

Which instrument did you learn first?

I started with percussion at the age of five. In Singapore, we have a tradition based on kompang. It is a traditional percussion instrument that looks like a tambourine with an animal skin stretched across its frame. It is said that the kompang is of Arab origin. It would have arrived in Malaysia, thanks to merchants, sometime around the 13th century. Kompang is also played in Indonesia and Malaysia. I eventually joined my primary school band playing the trumpet, when I was eight or nine. And around twelve, I started playing the drums.

Are you from a family of musicians?

Yes, my parents wanted me to join the family orchestra. It was easy to make music at home. One of my brothers was playing the clarinet and the other was playing the drums.

So you played jazz together?

No, I learned jazz much later. We were under the influence of traditional music. We listened to a lot of gamelans (traditional chime / percussion ensembles of Indonesia – Ed.) and local groups in Singapore, then maybe a little disco, funk and a lot of rock on the radio.

Speaking of radio, I've heard a lot about a station that has an excellent reputation for its music programming. I've also heard they stopped...

Yes indeed, it was called Lush 99.5. It was a radio station that played a lot of music from Singapore. Their playlist was mainly composed of local artists. They covered different styles, even electronic music. They were playing really good selections of incredible music. It was THE underground radio of Sg. You heard funk, rock and jazz from local artists. Plenty of DJs were invited to mix and give interviews. We even managed to invite Addis Pablo, the son of Augustus Pablo, on our show. I also invited JB to mix tunes. Unfortunately Lush 99.5 has stopped broadcasting.

And on the web, are there many interesting sites?

The most serious is SG Community Radio, where the StarWax Crew mixed. Otherwise most webradios had to close down due to lack of funding.

Regarding the mythical Stylers, I heard that they were the only group to continue releasing albums during the years of government censorship, in the 70s

No, there were many other bands that continued recording during that period, but The Stylers were everyone's favorite, of course. I imagine that the censorship was a result of the growing Chinese market which was getting bigger in Sg. Music and concerts in particular were perceived by the government as a threat. It was considered a hobby associated with drugs and debauchery. Dancing teas were forbidden, as well as men wearing long hair. Taxes imposed on groups playing in clubs increased by 100%. The government has dissuaded quite a few record companies from setting up offices locally. Then, when the British left Singapore in the 1960s, many artists went to Malaysia. So, consequentially, there were fewer releases at that time. It was a complicated period

Artists have left Singapore...

It should be noted that Singapore was at the center of music production and the film industry in Southeast Asia. Every year, hundreds of films were produced here. So when this censorship occurred, many producers left. One of the most important was the late P.Ramlee. He was not recognized while alive and died in extreme poverty. He produced hundreds of films and he was known as a great composer, arranger and even took on the task of directing or acting in his own features. There was a lot of talk when he left because he was such a famous figure. The media mocked and belittled him endlessly. It was too much for him and he died of a heart attack at the age of 44. The government has since paid tribute to him by dedicating a street in his memory

Tell us about DJing, do you mix strictly reggae and Afrobeat?

No I also mix Latin music and world music, jungle, afro-house or chillout. My nickname is Rumshot.

Do you always spin vinyl?

It depends on the place and if it's me who organizes the event. For reggae sessions we are mainly on vinyl.

You also have your sound system ...

Yes I have a reggae sound system called Dub Skank'in Hifi Sound System, it's the first sound system and we are still the only ones in Singapore, or almost. There are also Sunsplash Sunday parties at the Canvas Club. It all started nine years ago when I came back from Birmingham with a box of vinyls. I lived in England for nine years, I went to sound system parties and sometimes I took part in installing the sound system. I also played with Latin bands as a percussionist. So when I came back here, I absolutely wanted to build my own sound system. I managed to play out every month before launching Reggae Remedy.

You're the producer and leader of Reggae Remedy and Instigator Afrobeat...

Yes! The group was intended to serve as a backing band for international or local performers. We played for example for Masia One, a local singer and rapper or Ras Muhamad from Bali. We even managed to do the first part of the Wailers, here on the beach of Sentosa. The clubs did not want our music, they mostly wanted pop tube covers but we never gave up. The proof, we managed to release some singles and an Ep on Bandcamp. Music is our weapon, as Fela says! Otherwise I am also a percussion teacher in local schools.

Can you tell us more about how you work with these groups?

We often start with rhythm. Then we add guitars, melodia and the rest. We try to invite musicians, not only from Sg. This is the case of the Indonesian Famie (Reggae Remedy, Ed). We are happy to weave bridges between artists from the region.

We have a friend in common, Ray Lugo the singer of the band Kokolo. Can you tell us about his collaboration with the Instigator Afrobeat Orchestra?

We were in contact, especially when I lived in England. We met while playing in Coventry. I had a lot of fun with him, and then we became friends. When he told me that he was going to do concerts in Asia, I asked him to sing on "Caburu".

There are also two remixes, including the excellent "G-Spot" by Victor Rice (Easy All-Stars)...

Well when I heard his remix of "Dub di Malaika" Brazilian group Bixiga 70, I immediately liked his approach. I contacted him to ask for a remix and I think he made a very nice dub version of "G-Spot". We hope to be able to press vinyls of them this year.

You are also a sound engineer. Which studios do you like recording at?

Yes I went to school for that in Singapore and I was the sound engineer of the famous Montreux Jazz Café which, unfortunately, had to close down, like the Blue Jazz Café. Here many places disappear, it's like that ... For studios, I like to record at 32Bit studio. It belongs to a friend with whom I studied engineering. Otherwise for mixing and mastering we prefer to have it done abroad.

So, in your opinion, what's needed to energize Singapore's music scene?

It should diversify, we need less commercial music from the top 40, other influences are necessary. There should be more bars and concert venues that book DJs or underground bands.

Except cars that drive on the left-hand side, what remains of British culture?

The English brought the Rolling Stones. That had an influence on pop culture in the early 1960s. Sg is now a cosmopolitan city. We're more influenced by America today.

Before we wrap it up, do you have any favorite restaurants in the area?

In Singapore to eat Malaysian, you have to go to Geylang Serai Market. For vegetarian food the best is in Chinatown. And for Indian cuisine, I recommend Little India.



“ Here many places disappear, it's like that ... ”

DJ KO FLOW



WAYNE LIU ALIAS DJ KOFLOW HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE PART OF THE SINGAPOREAN HIP-HOP SCENE SINCE THE END OF THE 90'S. HE'S THE MISSING LINK BETWEEN THE PIONEERS AND THE DIGITAL GENERATION IN SG. TURNTABLIST AND BEATMAKER, HE LEANS HEAVILY TOWARDS BASS MUSIC, BUT DOES SO WITHOUT RELYING ON SIRENS AND EDM CLICHES. VINYL JUNKIE AND FINGER-DRUMMING ENTHUSIAST, HE MANAGES TO ADAPT TO THE MOST SINGULAR STAGE EXPERIENCES, WHETHER SOLO, DUO OR BACKED BY A PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. WE TAKE A LOOK AT HIS PERSONAL MUSICAL HISTORY AND ASK HIM ABOUT THE LOCAL MUSIC SCENE.

What were your first experiences with vinyl and Djing?

Well, it wasn't like I went to a club and thought "yeah I wanna do that". I actually was at a friend's house and saw him scratching on the turntables, that's when I first took interest. I had always wanted to play the piano, but my parents couldn't afford it. So the turntable became my substitute. I quickly realized that with a turntable I could do more than a pianist, I could play any instrument that I wanted to! That was when I started saving up to buy my first set up. I started collecting vinyls and then I became DJ more seriously.

Let's talk about Singapore, when you started DJing what was happening? Who were the others Djs, Mcs, beatmakers, bboys, writers?

When I started DJing, I was purely into bartending. DJing in the club didn't interest me at all, in the beginning. It was only later, after a year or two of collecting vinyls, that I started mixing out, at parties. At that time, Singapore's hip-hop scene was also growing, with DJs like Andrew Chow who is the godfather of Hip-Hop DJing over here. And Tiny T who regularly organized jams on the local airwaves. These are the same years when the scene witnessed rap bands such as Triple noise or Fury Elemental come onto the scene. Pioneering B-Boy crew Radikal Forze Bboy are still doing big things for the dance scene on a global scale. Writers like Phyreman lead the graffiti scene, doing his things at all the Hip-Hop clubs and events.

And today, is the scene still growing? Is there a new generation?

Yes, of course! Among the many newcomers are Shigga Shay, Yung Raja, Faris Jabba, Masia One ... And there is E-TracX DJ School, where you can learn DJing and beatmaking.

Do many DJs compete at Singapore's DMC contests?

There were up to 30 or 40 competitors, but today it would probably be less. There has been no DMC for ten years. And DJs have become more oriented towards club-style DJing, like in the Red Bull 3Style competitions

What is missing in the Singapore scene?

More turntablists that make music and perform their own tracks, live... and more Djs producing, mixing and performing their own songs.

Any tips for dancing and / or listening to good music, where do you go?

To have a good time and listen to good music, go to the Kilo Lounge. Otherwise White label is a great bar for chilling. There is always the best music selection (it's also a record store - Ed.). But, if you like the hits, like "DJ Mag - top 100" kind of Dj's, you could go to Zouk. Otherwise for the best parties watch promoters like @CollectiveMindsAsia, @DarkerThanWax, @Syndicatesg.

Et pour découvrir la bonne cuisine de Singapour, où faut-il aller ?

Vous pouvez probablement essayer Newton Circus ou Lau Pa Sat, pour une expérience singapourienne de restauration de plein-air. Ce n'est pas la meilleure offre de Singapour, mais c'est définitivement quelque chose d'authentique.

And to discover the excellent cuisine while in Singapore, where should I go?

You can probably try Newton Circus or Lau Pa Sat, for a Singaporean outdoor dining experience. It's not the best deal in Sg, but it's definitely something authentic.

“China is really different, don't forget that it's a country which boycotts YouTube...”

Do you still buy vinyl?

Yes, I always go to record stores when I travel. I'm not a hardcore digger but I collect breaks and funky classics.

Today your DJ sets are only made up of your own productions, why is that?

Well, that's not completely true, but I would play even more of my own tracks in my sets if I could. And I also do it because I'm an artist and that's the best way to promote my music.

So you haven't released an album yet... What do you have planned for the near future, as far as music projects?

I haven't released a full-length album yet, but I have released Eps and composed soundtrack music for some shows. I am working on a major release that I hope will be out this year.

You've also worked with Mcs, is that mostly for a live setting or in the studio as well?

Both.

You also collaborated with Mighty Souls...

Yes, but unfortunately they stopped making music. They are good friends though, so sometimes we just kick it or make music while hanging out, jamming or whatever.

What is your set up in your home studio like?

Rather minimal, actually... Yamaha HS8 monitoring speakers, an Apogee Duet sound card, M-audio midi keys, a Maschine MK3 with Ableton, a pair of turntables and a DJM s9 mixer.

Since the beginning, has your production process evolved?

Yes, it has changed a lot since the beginning, back then it was Pro Tools and an MPC 2000. But I realized that I spent more time transferring samples than being creative, so I have switched how I work since then..

Recently you worked with a philharmonic orchestra. Can you tell us about the composition process and how it was to work with the musicians?

I have always dreamt of working with an orchestra, ever since I started djing. I loved the idea of bringing street-art culture to a concert hall, together with real classical musicians. First I remix the parts I wan't to present, then I discuss the arrangements with the conductor, and he scores it and hands to the 78 members of the orchestra. Amazingly, we only spent one day rehearsing for the show and we were ready! It was thrilling, to say the least!

It was nerve-racking though, as I had to focus to avoid making any mistakes. It was unlike anything I've ever done before. Normally, we would just show up at parties and freestyle parts of our shows, but for that concert I had to be on point at all times.

The hip-hop scene in Thailand is quite big. What can you tell us about the past and present of Thai Hip-Hop?

When I first visited Thailand in 1999, I was hanging out with all the heads at Speed (at Silom Soo 4, a pedestrian street with many bars and restaurants – Ed.), you know, just getting drunk, talking shit, jamming, nothing serious. But over the years, we eventually grew to discover ourselves, personal expression, interests and such. Almost everyone I know from back then has since become an established artist, like the boys from Gancore Club and Thaitay, not to mention the Tha Beatlounge years.

Regarding China, is the public different from other Asian countries?

China is really different, don't forget that it's a country which boycotts YouTube, so it's a place that has its own identity, unlike the rest of the world. The music they like is also quite different from us. It took me a while to get it and finally adapt my sets more towards what they prefer. They generally think that electronic music has to be loud, must make you dance, like every Dj has to follow the DJ Mag Top 100.

You're coming back from visiting the Red Bull Music 3Style final in Taipei, what memories did you bring back?

It was great, a perfect opportunity to meet up with all the homies from all over the world, just talking music and djing for a week! The best moment has to be The Skratch Bastid BBQ, they had a 7-inch party and it was pure fire!

Soon you'll have a tour of Europe lined up, can you tell us about it? Is this the first time you'll be playing in Europe?

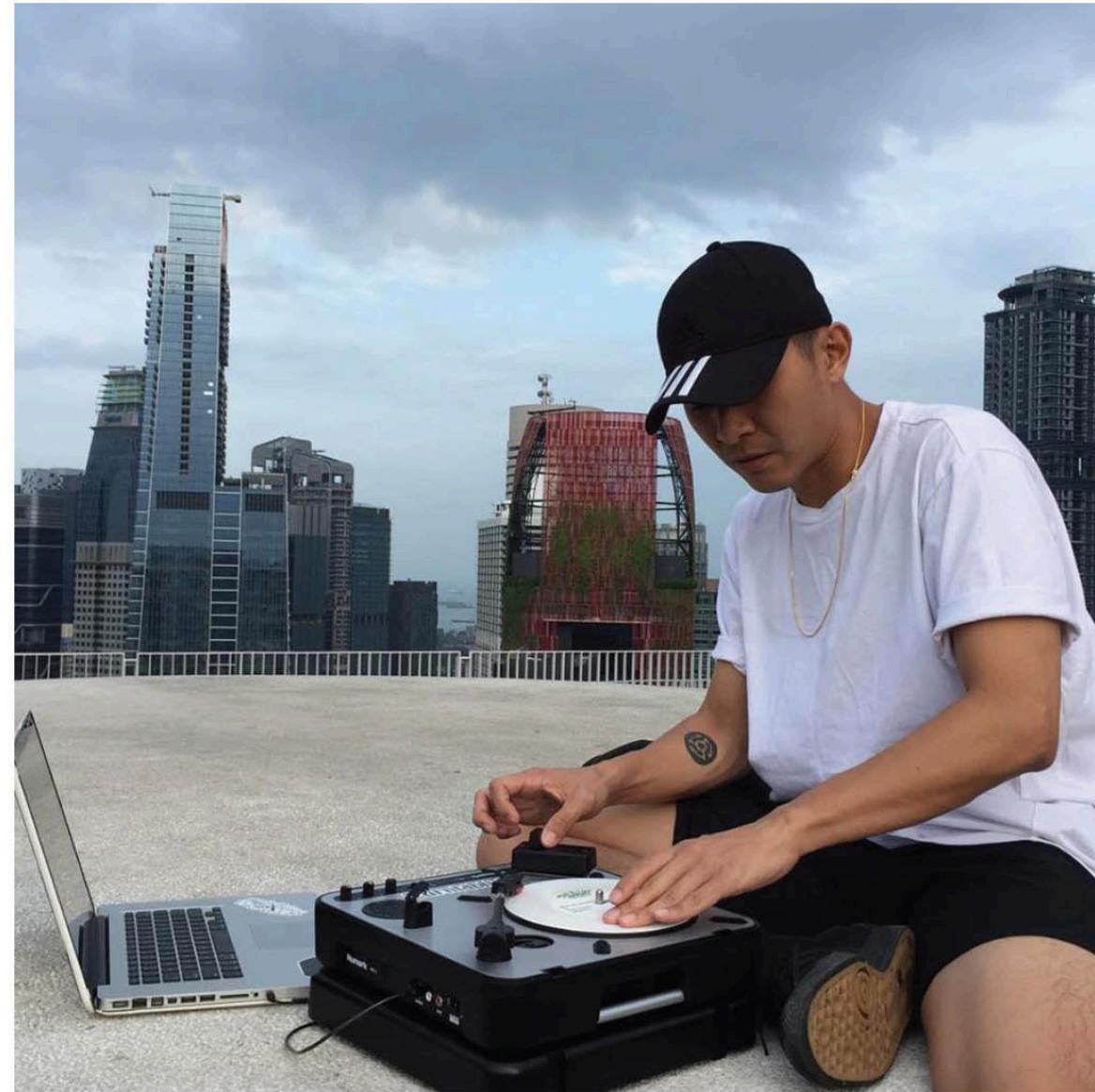
At the moment, I'm waiting for news from my manager but I think a tour will happen. Otherwise, I have already been to the DMC in London and I played at Tonstudio in Stuttgart.

And apart from music, do you have other passions?

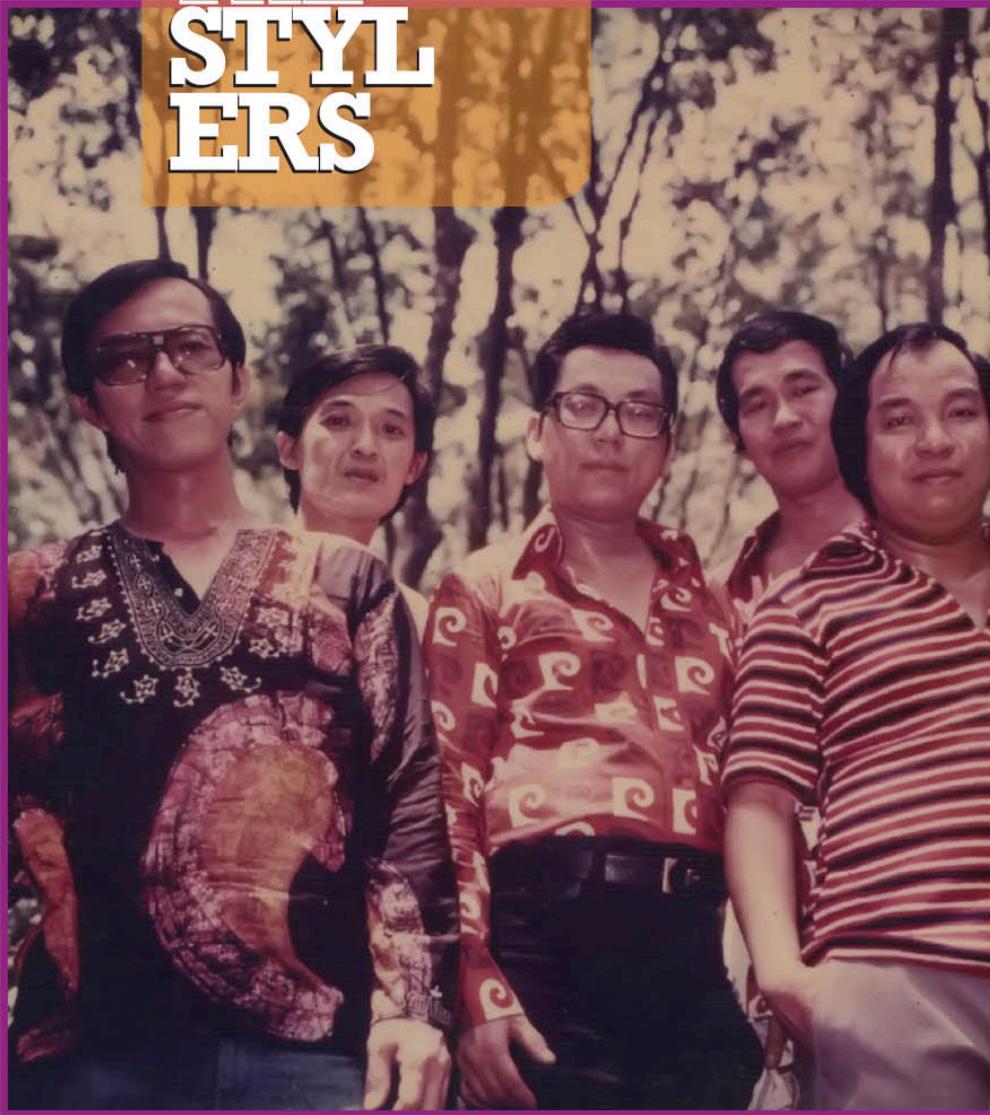
Yes, vintage fixies

One last word ?

Peace, love, respect and unity for everyone!



THE STYLERS



POPULAR IN ASIA IN THE 1960s, THE STYLERS RECORDED AN INSANE NUMBER OF RECORDS, INCLUDING OTHER ARTISTS' RECORDS WHERE THEY WERE FEATURED AS THE SIDE-BAND. FOUNDERS OF THE STYLE RECORDS LABEL, THE FAB FIVE OF SG THEN PUT OUT A LONG STRING OF RELEASES. THE RESULTING DISCOGRAPHY IS AT TIMES INCONSISTENT BUT OFTEN INTERESTING. WE TAKE A LOOK BACK AT STYLINGS CRAFTED FROM CHINESE MUSIC, SOUL AND A WHOLE LOTTA ROCK AND ROLL.

During the 60s, a wave of rock music hit Southeast Asia. At the forefront of this movement, countries such as Thailand and Cambodia discovered this dynamic new culture, situated a hundred leagues from the traditions of the time. International figures such as Little Richard or the Beatles contribute largely to this spirit of emancipation. Amplified by US troops during the Vietnam War, this revolution was also popular in Sg. A former English colony, the city-state enjoyed a period of relative freedom, which generated a breeding ground conducive to electric combos among which The Quests, The Crescendos or even artists like Matthew Tan and his singular songbook of country and western songs.

Fascinated by surf music and the twanging sound (accompanying the arrival of vibrato and tremolo effects – Ed.) dear to the Shadows, the Stylers followed suit, without imagining that they would quickly become the darlings of the genre in Asia. With Ronnie See and Robert Song on vocals, Douglas Tan on bass, Alvin Wong and Lawrence Lum on drums, and John Teo and Randy Lee on guitars, the line-up reached cruising speed at the beginning of 1964 with a single with singer Maggie released on Miracle Records. Thereafter, the group wasted no time mastering their stagecraft at venues such as the National Theater and the Musical Express, and won over crowds with ease. The Stylers then proceeded to concoct their freakbeat blend of English and Malay while also adding Mandarin or Cantonese to the mix, as both languages were common within the influential Chinese community. The market prospered. For twenty years, the five musicians went on to release over a thousand records in collaboration with hundreds of artists on nearly thirty different labels (1).

Launched by the Stylers, the Style Records Company is home to an expansive amount of the vast Stylers production catalog. From the beginning of the 70s, the ensemble has released not only recordings from their own repertoire but also local acts. As a prime example, Ervinna is certainly the most interesting performer of the lot. She made a name for herself in 1972 with the sublime "It Never Rains In Southern California" a cover of a song by Albert Hammond, featuring the Stylers, of course.

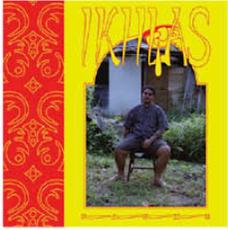
The Indonesian Nancy Sinatra supplants the typical beach themes with classy arrangements. In the wake of the yé-yé wave, the Stylers confirm this alchemy with the Ep "Beautiful Sunday", where they revisit four themes previously made famous by Ervinna, including Redbone's "Witch Queen of New Orleans". Inspired by Playboy magazine's iconic rabbit, the Style logo captures the spirit of the band nicely. It also reflects another side of the label, devoted to disco. Marked by the success of the Bee Gees, the Stylers then trade in their Chelsea boots for a more colorful look. In 1978, they signed Singaporean singer Alice Chang, who is a big favorite on tropical dancefloors with the album "Rivers of Babylon". The title track is an excellent alternative to the Melodians rock steady hit, and is far superior to the freeze-dried rendition made popular by Boney M.

Heritage

Now separated, the Stylers will always be considered as an unprecedented phenomenon, both commercially and culturally. The sound created in the 60s (certainly the most interesting part of their career) and the dynamic energy they injected in the local music scene have had a lasting impact to this day. Groups like the Cambodian Space Project attest to their legacy. The Thai Bangkok Paradise Molam International Band have released two excellent albums, and certain tracks were remixed by British dubmaster Nick Manasseh. The American band Dengue Fever bring garage rock up to date with a heavy dose of Phnom Penh sauce. Unlike the Stylers, for whom rock represented modernity, these groups often use contemporary instruments to reconnect with a more traditional, folk register, including molam. It seems almost like an ironic anecdote, which serves to remind us once again how much music is a matter of recycling. Note that the discs Stylers are rare in our latitudes. Fans of vintage pop, exotica and cha cha imagery, however, will most absolutely dig the vinyl releases, such as the singles with two or four tracks, a format which was popular about fifty years ago.

(1) Singapore 60's Pop Music Hall of Fame, Warner.





Fauxe / Ikhlas (Cassette/ Digital)

A figure from the thrilling Chinabot electro collective, the Singaporean Fauxe returns from a trip to Malaysia where he composed the essentials of "Ikhlas". Combining sixteen tracks rarely exceeding two minutes, this album mixes beats and samples in contact with Malay, Tamil and Hawaiian repertoires. Often surprising, the gleaned samples avoid the globalized broth, reducing stamps of the tropical type bass. Shared between traditions, technology and a unifying approach (the relationship between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur is complex), this experience naturally reflects the musical diversity of Southeast Asia. An obvious kaleidoscopic production listening to "Gaut", "Meh" or "Ondeh-Ondeh". Or again with "Sayau", whose polyrhythmic structure fascinates. Articulated as a road book, the production of Fauxe is above all creative. Dominant hip-hop, digital syncopations echo the songs chanted. A fertile symbiosis expressed by the amazing "Kampong" and its low saturated. Published fifty copies, "Ikhlas" is already exhausted, at least in its tape version. The most curious will fall back on the platform of Chinabot Bandcamp where the album is available. (Vincent Caffiaux)

Coldgeist / Durian Durian (Cassette/Digital)

For decades, Asian musicians have been digging into Western music to orchestrate their compositions. Two historical reasons explain this state of affairs: the colonization that led them to discover the European sounds, before the development of a world pop culture. If it is still early to talk about trends, it is interesting to note that some artists from the old continent are now turning their ears towards the East. Dj and producer evolving in the movement of a techno Emptyset, Coldgeist has released several Eps on Weekend Circuit, Children of Tomorrow or Dement3D Records. During the summer of 2018, he went to Honk Kong, "the Port aux Parfums", and then, back in Paris, laid on tape memories of this trip. Published on his label Ritual Process, "Durian Durian" requires a second listening, to distinguish the electronic influences (The Hacker for the title track, Kerridge on "Crystal Healing"), reminiscences of Asia (the throbbing drones of "The Razor", the tribal beat of "Back Alley"). Recommended for big thrills fans. As for the others, they might like it in the long run. (Leiss).

Dengue Fever / Swallow the Sun (Cd)

For eighteen years, Dengue Fever has been composing flamboyant psyche-rock studded with Khmer melodies. This Korean compilation (recently available on the training website) is a great overview of their career and reflects well the richness of their musical environment. Starting with "One Thousand Tears of a Tarantula", the "Escape from Dragon House" hit. Or with "Pow Wow" and "Lost in Laos", two melodic jewels extracted from the founder "Dengue Fever". Although "Electric Cambodia" tunes are unfortunately missing from this best of, pearls such as "Tiger Phone Card" or "Deepest Lake on the Planet" confirm the talent of brothers Holtzman and Chhom Nimol, the dazzling Cambodian singer. In addition, vinyl addicts will go for the split single Holloys. Dengue Fever with "Ethanopium", adopted in time by the very cool Jim Jarmusch before being remixed in an electro mode. And the orange 7 inch "Ganadaramaba", where Dengue Fever revisits an obscure title of Korean rock garage with powerful choruses.... The first piece is available at Slapshot, the second at Tuk Tuk Records. (Vincent Caffiaux)

Akiko Yano / Japanese Girl (Lp/Cd/Digital)

The demanding label Wewantsounds continues its reissue of the discography of Akiko Yano. After "Tadama", the electro-pop parenthesis written in 1981 with Ryuichi Sakamoto, the Parisian nerds tackle the Japanese singer's first try via "Japanese Girl". Recorded in the middle of the 70s, this unreleased sessions under our skies cultivates a tropism often adulated in the land of the rising sun, an elegant folk-jazz heir to Joni Mitchell and the Village. On the first side of the album, the rock band Little Feat plays with concision. A challenge when we know the expansive character of the American combo. Disregarding their habits, the trio of virtuoso Lowell George breathes a subtle groove to the compositions of the young Tokyoite. The magic operates with the catchy "Telephone Line", via the countryser "Kuma" and thanks to "Tsugaru Tour". Equally interesting, the second side gives a fair share to traditional-modern arrangements. Announcer of a Japanese musical scene uninhibited (Sonoko or even Kazuko Hohki and his covers of 60's Brigitte Bardot...), Akiko Yano offers five captivating pieces as "Ekoriputaa" or the baroque "Oka Wo Koete". Highly recommended. (Vincent Caffiaux)

CLOZEE

15/03/2019: La Belleilloise - Paris 75, France
 22/03/2019: Théâtre Barbey - Bordeaux 33, France
 11/04/2019: The Showbox - Seattle WA, Usa
 12/04/2019: Crystal Ballroom - Portland OR, Usa
 13/04/2019: Coachella Festival - Indio CA, Usa
 18/04/2019: Music Box - San Diego, Usa
 20/04/2019: Coachella Festival - Indio CA, Usa
 25/04/2019: Theatre of Living Art - Philadelphia PA, Usa
 26/04/2019: Magic Stick - Detroit MI, Usa
 27/04/2019: Palladium - Worcester MA, Usa
 28/04/2019: Celine - Orlando FL, Usa
 02/05/2019: Metro Music Hall - Salt Lake City UT, Usa
 03/05/2019: Belly Up - Aspen CO, Usa
 04/05/2019: Red Rocks Ampitheatre - Morrison CO, Usa
 10/05/2019: Skyway Theatre - Minneapolis MN, Usa
 11/05/2019: Shaky Beats Festival - Atlanta GA, Usa
 12/05/2019: Lightning in a Bottle - Bakersfield CA, Usa
 16/05/2019: Meow Wolf - Sante Fe NM, Usa
 17/05/2019: Lizard Lounge - Dallas TX, Usa
 18/05/2019: Mohawk - Austin TX, Usa
 23/05/2019: Republic NOLA - New Orleans LA, Usa
 24/05/2019: Elements Festival - Lakewood PA, Usa
 24/05/2019: 9:30 Club - Washington DC, Usa
 13/06/2019: Anthropos Festival - Cambridge, UK
 27/06/2019: Dakini Festival - Tuzla Beach, Roumanie
 11/07/2019: Dour Festival - Belgique
 01/08/2019: Lollapalooza - Chicago IL, Usa
 02/08/2019: Summer Meltdown - Darrington WA, Usa
 03/08/2019: Arise Festival - Loveland CO, Usa
 17/08/2019: WAO Festival - Nettuno, Italy....



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Senyawa / Sujud (Lp/Cd/Digital)

With "Sujud", the Indonesians of Senyawa deliver an interesting and radical album. Backed by Wukir Suryadi, a designer of bamboo-based electric instruments, singer-songwriter Rully Shabara summons the spirits for an explosive animist jam. Particularly effective, the formula does wonders starting with "Tanggalkan Di Dunia" and its haunted ceremonial. Or with the titular beach and its bewitching sound carpet. Signed on the US label Sublime Frequencies, Javanese shamans reviews forty years of hybrid experiences. From the powerful rhythms of Can (Damo Suzuki played with them) to the cryogenised dub of Public Image Limited through the paintings of Jon Hassell or the noise sequences of Arto Lindsay, the influences are decisive. However, contrary to the aforementioned groups or performers for whom the rhythms of the world are often the fruit of their imagination, Senyawa directly contrast his performance with the folk repertoires of the Asian archipelago. Songs such as "Kembali Ke Dunia", the abrasive "Kebaikan Tumbuh Dari Tanah" and the recent B.O. of the documentary "Calling The New Gods" strengthen the company. The Indonesian language and its particular semantics do the rest. (V.C.)

The Bongo Hop / Satingarona Pt. 2 (Lp/Cd/Digital)

Two years after their album acclaimed by the critics, Etienne Sevet returns to the front of the stage with this little gem sound with Colombian and West African influences, influenced by his eight years stay in Cali, Colombia. For this disc, the trumpet player finds once again the singer Nidia Gongora on "La Carga" (the voice of Quantic and Ondatropica, that's her) or the hyperactive producer and arranger Bruno 'Patchworks' Hovart. New collaborations are also emerging, such as rapper Greg Frite (formerly Triptik) on "L'Autre Quai" and Cameroonian Cindy Pooch ("O Na Ya"). Sounds good on paper, but in vinyl it sounds better. The groove that comes out from songs like "San Gabriel", taken over by the Afro-Colombian band Buscaja, or "O Na Ya", a tribute to the South African broken beat, show the cultural diversity of this transatlantic record, an indefinable mix that brings us back to the essential and breaks the boundaries of the musical genre.



But the real strength of "Satingarona Pt.2" lies in the storytelling: "Grenn Pwonmenenn" evokes overexploitation of land and deforestation in Haiti; "Agua Fria" narrates a tale with accents of environmental apocalypse; "La Carga" is based on an anecdote about a plane crash caused by Colombian cocaine trafficking; "Jashu" revives the memory of a meeting in Bordeaux with artists from Soweto... Each track tells an adventure, a chronicle of the world seeking to bring people together. The music becomes alive, free, filled with hope. Through this cultural plurality, Sevet takes up the challenge of creating a humanist work, free of barriers of style, language, knowledge. And it's successful. (Loïc Pineau)

V.A. / MEEK SILK (Digital)

Ten years already that the Parisian label Cascade Records treats us with a catalog composed of the finest of the electro hip-hop scene. Since 2009, Sal Martin and Joe Art have been highlighting artists such as Kea, Midori, 1000 Horses-Steam and Holy Two, spearheading a sound that combines "emotion, sensation & beats", according to the two artistic directors of the label. To celebrate this anniversary with great fanfare, Cascade Records releases a compilation of unreleased songs composed by the best producers of the label. "Meek Silk" offers eleven surprising songs, mainly influenced by hip-hop, groove and nu nu soul. The compilation opens with a subtitled title of Lyonnais Kuna Maze, "Gray Pattern", with soft and hilarious melodies. Then begins an auditory journey through various influences: a touch of nu jazz with "Nightfall Rush" duo Fardust and "Capuccino" of the English Handbook, a hint of funk Robert Glasper way with the VECT voice vocoder in "Alldaylong", a zest of melancholic pop with the Parisian ISMA (who released a solo Lp, "Health", in the spring of 2019) accompanied by the mystical song of Kahena for "De ta Fenêtre". Then we find the California imprint of Cvd with "Getting Busy", or the energy club Boki and its oozing "Say U Wanna Love Me". The record ends beautifully with "Ush! Walter Cornelius, who uses his drummer past wisely in this title with complex riffs reminiscent of d n'b. The final seconds of the track conclude with a solo guitar, resonating lyricism and nostalgia, feelings that perfectly define the colour of this Lp. Ideal soundtrack of a sunny winter Sunday, this compilers enlightens the listener of a solar music, undeniably groovy, sometimes poetic, but which always makes you the smile. (Loïc Pineau)

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A/K/A Sounds (Sg)

New releases Top 5

- Om Unit "Righteousness"
- Tcklife "Sick Shy" feat. Slick Shoota & Dj Earl
- Zamaera "Still Callin"
- Fracture & Neptune "Chal Dub"
- A.Fruit "Gonman feat D.E."

Top 5 oldies

- The Fabulous Wailers "I Idolize You"
- Tenderness "Gotta Keep on Trying"
- Donna Summer "I Feel Love"
- Teresa Teng "我只在乎你"
- Ella Fitzgerald "Summertime"

How did you start Djing?

I learned to Dj on turntables when I was 19, at a place called Frontallabs around 2004.

Your favorite club in Sg?

Kilo Lounge, they have a varied selection of really good DJs and international guests on their roster.

The first vinyl you bought?

"Kenny Dope Presents The Mad Racket"

Your top 3 bass music producers?

It's really hard, but currently Kahn, Itoa & Anna Morgan

Attagirl collective in 3 words?

Fun, Fierce, Family

Your favorite restaurant in Sg?

Gandhi, it's an indian restaurant in Little India. They you're encouraged to eat with your hands!...

Which DJ never fails to blow your mind?

Addison Groove

And a female?

... there's many DJs whom I respect and admire. But I'll give a shout to Madam X

Do you have other passions?

Design, I love to draw ...and make soap for a brand I'm starting now called shibuso soap.



Andhika (Bali)

New releases Top 5

- Disclosure "Funky Sensation"
- Chaka Khan "Like Sugar"
- Rudimental "Let Me Live"
- Bucket "United States of Smash"
- Flyes "No Sleep"

Top 5 oldies

- Prince "Head"
- James Brown "People, Get Up and Drive Your Funky Soul"
- Jimi Hendrix "Hear my Train a Comin' "
- Cream "Sunshine of your Love"
- The Doors "Peace Frog"

How did you start Djing?

Hard Rock Cafe Jakarta in 1994

The first vinyl you bought?

"Dance wit' Me" Rick James

Spin Sugar Bali in 3 words?

Vinyl, community, Bali

Your favorite restaurant in Bali for Typical Bali food ?

Laota for Seafood and Café Roma for grilled fish by the beach

A glass of ?

An infusion of lemon, mint, apple & lychee

Which DJ never fails to blow your mind?

Dj Shadow, Dj Nu-Mark & Dj Koco AKA Shimokitaz

Your favorite female Dj?

Livia, Dj Misbehaviour, Dj Natasha Diggs

7 or 12 inch?

7-inches for my DJ Sets & 12-inches for the joys of extended versions

Prince or James Brown?

Prince

Your favorite beaches in Bali?

Balangan Beach or Padang Padang Beach



Dj Kade (Bkk)

New releases Top 5

- Free Nationals "Beauty & Essex" (Daju Flip)
- KMB "Take you There"
- Pastels "Proof" feat. Safe Travel
- Cloonee "The Ciggie"
- VHOOR "Taste"

Top 5 oldies

- Daft Punk "Around the World"
- Daft Punk "One More Time"
- Architects "Body groove feat Nay Nay"
- Uffie "Add Suv" feat. Pharrell Williams
- Justice "D.A.N.C.E."

How did you start Djing?

When i was in the University back in 2009, Pioneer Dj Thailand had a DJ course for females were interested in Djing...

Your favorite bar-club in Bkk?

Beam Club because they got the best sound and lighting..

Top 3 producers?

Daft Punk, Kaytranada & Disclosure

The first vinyl you bought?

"Be" Common

Your favorite concept store in Bkk?

Community Mall where they have food / beverages / flea markets / music

Your favorite female Dj?

Miss Peggy Gou, at the moment

Your favorite dj set up?

Any. For me I think it's not about the Dj equipment but rather the music selection... with the right vibe and the right crowd!

Your favorite Thai record label?

Back in the old days it was Dojo City

Do you have other passions?

I love the beach, swimming int the ocean and scuba diving and also travelling, discovering other cultures



Presents

Soom T / Palov Meets Angelos Angelides
Tarek Yamani / They Must Be Crazy / Bumble Bzz
Y-Etizm & Skatta / Thomas Kahn / Sorg & Napoleon Maddox

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