

Photography by Luca Bandini

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Schönwald

Interview by Elizabeth Rhodes

Roll Call

We are a duo, Alessandra sings and plays bass guitar, and keyboards. I (Luca) play guitar, synth, and programming drum machines.

“A minimalist approach that would not be out of place in a horror film. Through icy synth lines, throbbing beats and twisted guitar work, we offer a moody look into the darker side of post-punk.”

—Alessandra

When did the band get started and what was the original intention of the band?

Alessandra : We started in 2008 as a duo, before we were part of a full band called Pitch. We are a couple in life, when we play together is a sort of emotional waterfall between us. This is awesome to the creative process.

Tell us more about your name: how does it communicate the sound or vibe of the band?

L : Schönwald means in German something like “already in the woods” and it has also a personal connection because it’s a variation of my mother’s family name; in fact, I’m of German descent, the correct surname is Schönwald.

A : We think that the name is full of poetic suggestions so it’s very good for a band name.

How would you describe your music to someone who has not yet checked you out?

A : A minimalist approach that would not be out of place in a horror film. Through icy synth lines, throbbing beats and twisted guitar work, we offer a moody look into the darker side of post-punk.

What inspires you to create this style of music?

A : We live in Ravenna, a small town near the Adriatic Sea which is characterized by fog, marshes and swamps. These places, especially in winter, are very suggestive and rich in gloomy atmospheres. So it’s very easy to get inspiration for creating our music.

What influences in fashion, literature and culture impact your creativity?

L : We love art.

A : Regarding visual artists, in our top list there are Bruce Nauman, Nam June Paik and Marina Abramovic. About painting we like a lot: impressionism, abstract expressionism and we also like the portraits of photographer Kevin Cummins.

What other bands are

inspiring you right now?

L : We love bands like The Cure, New Order, The Jesus and Mary Chain, DNA, Suicide. Our music is truly inspired by the 80s sound. We grew up listening to the New York NO WAVE scene and British post-punk bands mainly. Regarding new sounds we like a lot: Curses, The Soft Moon and Alice Gift.

How would you describe the current alternative music scene where you live?

A : The current alternative underground Italian scene seems very healthy in recent years if compared to ten or twenty years ago. In fact, great bands like Soviet Soviet, Winter Severity Index, Ash Code and Be Forest got success in Italy and even more abroad.

What are your favorite tour or stage stories? Share ‘em here.

L : Hard to say which stage we loved more! To be honest, the

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—Luca

tour of 2015 was one of the best ever because we played in every single capital city in Europe. It was stunning, especially since it was our very first time at Wave Gotik Treffen in Leipzig—how can we forget?

Tell us about your latest release.

A : The process of writing/ composition of our latest album called *Abstraction* took quite a longer time than the previous album. First, Luca started on the structure of drums and rhythmic loops then the bass lines made by synths. At that point Luca did strong work with the guitar lines and at the end I recorded the bass lines and vocals. We wanted *Abstraction* to get a better post-punk sound that could represent us the most regarding our actual attitude.


What’s next for your band?

L : We are recording a new album that will be out next year.

Where can people find out more about your band and any other projects members are involved in?

L : Our other project Shad Shadows is all about electronic stuff, without traditional instruments such as guitar and bass guitar. We are directed towards a search of sounds recalling movie scores, late 80s and 90s industrial dance.

A : I started a second project because it was a challenge to me starting to sing and trying to express myself with another music approach. Visit schonwald.bandcamp.com, facebook.com/schonwald, music.instagram.com/schonwald and shadshadows.bandcamp.com, facebook.com/shadshadowsmusic, instagram.com/shadshadows. || **A**

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