

The Secret French Postcards

Roll Call

Olli Ohlander : vocals, guitar, and bass

Fredrik Ringvall : drums

Peter Björkman : live guitar

Martin Broman : live bass

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

Olli Ohlander : The Secret French Postcards is a project founded in 2016, inspired by punk, post punk, new wave and the goth scene from the 80s. After a ten-year break from our old band, we wanted to start again but in another direction. I had the time, but my fellow buddies did not, so it all developed into my own little project.

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

OO : I think I just picked that name as a project name when I was putting songs up on SoundCloud, a platform that was used at the time to let the other guys [in the band] listen to new songs. I had no intention that it would be the band name but I kind of liked it and kept it. The story is that I discovered an online auction with erotic photos called Secret French Postcards from the Past and I was kind of fascinated over the story.

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

OO : The Secret French Postcards is romantic, full of pale and dark melodies. We have aspects of post-punk and shoegaze.

What inspires you to create this style of music?

OO : I guess I always loved post-punk and goth stuff, so I had it in me since I was a kid. I grew up in a medium-sized city called Jönköping here in Sweden. I started relatively young when I discovered punk [at age] eight or nine years old. Before that, it was the band KISS. We had a great music scene at the time in the early 80s and I got to see bands like: The Adicts, GBH, Peter and the Test Tube Babies, Toy Dolls, and so on. Lots of classic punk bands. At the same time, I discovered bands like The Damned, Killing Joke, Siouxsie and the Banshees, The Cult, The Cure,

Dead Can Dance, and more. So, I had both punk and goth holding my hands when I was growing up (and they still are).

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

OO : I think everything you mention affects me more than I want to admit. But at the age of 50 I still have the same style as I had when I was young, you know, all dressed in black with a pair of Docs. I also worked with fashion in clothing and shoe stores, I had a tiny skateboard brand and had a skateboard shop.

What other bands are inspiring you right now?

OO : Lots. From Duran Duran to Chaos UK, but mostly punk and new wave from the 80s. But I also listen to new stuff. There are so many great bands out there. IAMTHESHADOW, Mark e Moon, all the bands on the label Cold Transmission actually. ACTORS, Drab Majesty, Delphine Coma, Bootblacks, Then Comes Silence, Dark Narrows, Agent Side Grinder. Just to name a few.

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

“ So, I had both punk and goth holding my hands when I was growing up (and they still are). ”



OO : I have no idea about it now. It seems so far away these days because of the COVID-19 shit. But when I grew up in the 80s it was awesome. Really great punk scene back then. Normally I try to visit shows and festivals. I still live in Jönköping, Sweden but far in the woods, you know, with lots of animals. Sometimes we have great shows here but mostly I go to Gothenburg and Stockholm to see bands. Sometimes Denmark.

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

OO : None with TSFP. Not yet anyway. [In a former band] we went to Aberdeen in



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Photos by Simon Söderberg.

Scotland to record and play some shows for two weeks. (1998-99 I think) But the bloke who was our engineer kind of disappeared, so we were stranded in Aberdeen for a week. A great town and we got to see the band Teenage Fanclub at a club. Lots of laughs and beers but also lots of anxiety over girlfriends and wives and kids back home and all we could do was drink. The band split after that.

Tell us about your latest release.

OO : The album is called *Colours* and it's my third release. There are ten songs produced by Pedro Code from IAMTHESHADOW. It's an album about love, alcohol

and everyday observations.

What's next for your band?

OO : I am making new songs that I hope will be released in 2021. We really want to play some live shows this year as well.

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

OO : At coldtransmission.com and theseecretfrenchpostcards.bandcamp.com.