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Photo by Marta
Szewczyk.

Emerging

If you've been wondering **what to listen** to lately or perused Spotify and social media searching for the **next emerging band** that would restore your faith in The State of Music, this reoccurring feature is for you.

We checked in with a few of the bands we think have a unique voice in the musical landscape to **inspire a new generation** of concert-goers and record-buyers alike.

featuring **Fatamorgana · Aurat · Blu Anxxiety · Fotocrime**

interviews by **Elizabeth Rhodes**

Fatamorgana

Roll Call

Patrycja Proniewska : Vocals

Louis Harding : Synths and Drum Machines

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

Fatamorgana started in the hot Barcelona summer of 2017. It all began as a bedroom project on Louis' bed full of cables, synths and drum machines. After some initial jam sessions, first verses and choruses began to be born and we recorded them to cassette. Half a year later, Fatamorgana blossomed into a functional live unit and we played our first show.

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

A Fata Morgana is an optical illusion that appears over the horizon and an illusion is a phenomenon that plays with our senses and our perception. I love the ocean and the horizon, and I could stare at it for hours. It makes me feel calm and helps me get perspective.

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

It's synthpop appearing from my dreams.

What inspires you to create this style of music?

My dreams and also reality.

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

I feel my creativity is more triggered by the phenomena of nature, the mysteries of reality and all the moments I share with them in my mind and my imagination as well as the occurrences that happen during my life. Still, of course, all the cultural background we accumulate throughout our lifetime is going to be reflected in our creations. After touring and visiting Japan with my other band a few years ago, I came back deeply influenced by some aspects of its culture and philosophy. That trip allowed me to think more about different ideas and aesthetic categories, like for example the concept of "wabi-sabi" which inspires me a lot. This fascination has its effects on Fatamorgana's music. I would like to recommend two books: *In Praise of Shadows* by Jun'ichirō Tanizaki and *The Structure of "Iki"* by Shūzō Kuki. As for fashion, I adore fashion creations that catch and reflect the light. Also, David Bowie has always been a big inspiration for me.

What other bands are inspiring you right now?

Recently I've been listening to Haroumi Hosono, Kraftwerk, Grace Jones, Choir Boy, Love, Boy Harsher, and Rosalia. Also, to a jazz mixtape our friend from London made and sent us in a cute package and some other Peruvian traditional music tape compilations. I also frequently like to listen and would like to recommend Marek Biliński, an amazing Polish electronic music composer.

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

Barcelona is a mix of people from many different places and this cultural mix is reflected in the alternative music scene. It is varied and always in motion. That's one of my favorite things about being here. I am very much looking forward to seeing how it is going to explode and flower in the new reality after the current COVID-19 crisis and restrictions.

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

Let me tell you a story of the night of our first ever performance. After playing we loaded and parked the car in front of the venue for the night and danced all night to celebrate our first ever performance. The next day when we came back to pick up our vehicle, it wasn't there. It was full of our instruments and there was a big palm tree plant inside that appeared on stage with us. We called the police and it turned out the car was in their parking lot. In the euphoria after playing we left the car with all the windows wide open and went to party. The police saw the car and towed it to their secure parking so no one could steal it. After being extremely scared we felt relieved.

Tell us about your latest release.

Terra Alta is our debut LP. *Terra Alta* is both a geographical (Southern Catalunya) and imaginary territory where dreamlike synthesizers and echoed voices circle around danceable rhythms. With this album we want to invite you to simultaneously contemplate and move your body. The *Terra Alta* universe concerns themes of love, time travel, reflections on the future, the power of imagination, and the mysteries of the world. I would like to imagine music as a creature teleporting between the majesty of nature and the glow of the discotheque.

What's next for your band?

We just finished writing our new LP and we want to record it in August. We are very excited about it! Also, we really hope we can go on tour again. But the good news is that during the summer we'll play a concert in the castle located on Montjuïc Hill in Barcelona.

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

Instagram @fatamorgana_barcelona and @__martu, Bandcamp fatamorganabarcelona.bandcamp.com, and on Spotify and YouTube. And you can check out our other postpunk project Belgrado @belgradoband.