



evoke with Velvet Kills, and it gathered the labels Icy Cold Records, Manic Depression Records and Unknown Pleasures Records, all in the same release.

Recently we've also released an album of remixes, *Bodhi Labyrinth Re-imagined*, where we put together a group of artists from different scenes, Bjoerlin, LOLA ZAZA, Anyer Quantum, Dave Inox and Chris Shape and let them impart their unique visions into the VK universe. We're really happy with the work they've done.

#### What's next for your band?

**VK:** We'll continue our journey. More music, more shows, more videos, more collaborations. Also, since *Bodhi Labyrinth* was released just before this pandemic, we haven't even had a chance to perform it for our fans yet, so we're really looking forward to returning to the road and presenting our new work at the Mini Cave Festival, North Shadows Festival, Stereogum and more shows that we'll be announcing soon. There are some new collaborations that we've already finished that'll be coming out soon, as well as a piece for ICON, a Siouxsie Sioux tribute album, which will be released along with a book, and a tribute to Sisters of Mercy that'll be released through Unknown Pleasures Records, both later this year. Also, we've got a behind-the-scenes mini documentary that will be coming out soon combining some of the outtakes and video taken by Antonio Colombini. We're also working on a new album that we'll be revealing more details about soon. We're really excited about that. But for now, we're going to have to keep you in the dark a little longer. We can tell you though that the title is *Beyond Destination*, so we'll leave you to ponder that. || A

Check out [velvetkills.com](http://velvetkills.com), [susanasantosmakeup.com](http://susanasantosmakeup.com), [artmistake.com](http://artmistake.com), [facebook.com/suekoart](http://facebook.com/suekoart), and [facebook.com/harrisivesonofficial](http://facebook.com/harrisivesonofficial).



# MARY

Interview by  
Elizabeth Rhodes

Roll Call  
Kuba Rygal: MARY has been a solo project of my own for its entirety.

## "I think creativity comes from a source unknown."

— Kuba Rygal

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

**Kuba Rygal:** I first started MARY formally in Montreal. As soon as I started playing guitar, I started recording songs (very bad songs) and everything just sort of developed naturally from there. I don't think at first there was any sort of specific intention other than being obsessed with creating interesting sounds and compositions.

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

**SR:** I felt as though MARY was vague enough. Band names are so strange to begin with. I wanted something that didn't particularly leave any sort of taste. Short and to the point. I liked the way it sounded. So, I went with it. I also liked the gothic correlation.

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

**SR:** Hmm, I feel as though that is always such a tricky question to answer. I hope the sound comes across as post-punk with a modern rock twist.

#### What inspires you to create this style of music?

**SR:** I've been writing in minor always without much thought. Dark music has always just been a thing for me. I also love the sounds of the 80s. The synth and guitar tones. The drum sounds. Perfection, really.

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

**SR:** If I am going to be honest, I would say that meditation and present moment awareness impacts me the most. I think creativity comes from a source unknown. I spend a lot of energy reading on the matter. It puts me in such a beautiful place. A perfect place for creation.

#### What other bands are inspiring you right now?

**SR:** There are a few I've had on heavy repeat. ACTORS. The Twilight Sad. This band called Decades from Toronto released a

record years ago that blew my mind.

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

**SR:** Being in Toronto is pretty great (not during COVID-19, of course). I think you could get a good glimpse of most scenes here. Hometown favorite is definitely TRAITRS.

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

**SR:** None! not yet anyways!

#### Tell us about your latest release.

**SR:** This last release was a special one for me. First of all, it was released on a label. I'm really happy to have been



taken in by Cold Transmission. Andy and Suzy are the nicest people. I would say it was the first conclusive body of work I have put out. The concept for the record was overcoming the self. Hyper relevant to what I was going through at the time. There was a lot of suffering. A lot of panic attacks. Meditation has given me a life back and they keep getting deeper and deeper which has been really fun. You become an excited child again. Highly suggest for anyone who has been thinking of giving it a shot.

#### What's next for your band?

**SR:** Keep writing songs! Potentially show up in Germany to play a Cold Transmission festival. We shall see, really. But I'm definitely working hard to get another album out this year. At least three or four songs are done so far. || A

[maryofficial.bandcamp.com](http://maryofficial.bandcamp.com)