

INTERVIEW TO BLACK EGG

Some days after the release of their new album by **Aufnahme+Wiedergabe (Melencolia)**, **Black Egg**, mysterious creature which dark electronic sound changes constantly, has released a new album with the french and well-known **Unknown Pleasures Records (Songs of Death and Deception)**. For this reason and as Corina Nenuphar has recently started a collaboration with them (well-known singer we already had the chance to talk about about her release under the monicker **Ghost Actor**, also this released by A+W), we talk with one of the most known, interesting and eclectic acts of the current electronic landscape.

- 1) Hi guys! Would you mind explaining us the genesis of the Black Egg project? What's the monicker meaning?

Usher: Well, I started Black Egg in 2012 alone, but I wanted to create a collective, and soon after I wrote the songs, I felt the desire to work with other musicians (**Normotone**, Vera – who sang in **Die Puppe** -, Judith, Osiris, and also with designers and photographers, and the whole thing became Black Egg. The Black Egg is a discipline of chaos, an aesthetic that changes our way of life, as we said in the Little Manifesto. Black Egg is from alchemy too, with the Cosmic or Philosophic Egg. But the Black Egg is different, with is part coming from Melencolia.

- 2) Listening to your music, i think about different influences, from post punk to industrial music and the angst pop sound of **November Növelet**; could you suggest us some artist who has influenced you the most and that still today influences your work?

Usher: Well you know, our influences come from the punk and post punk area, **Throbbing Gristle**, the **Velvet Underground**, **Fad Gadget**, **Tuxedomoon**, **PIL** etc. You know, I was part of the scene with **Norma Loy**, so this is in my heart and soul, and still now, and forever. But it's true that on the *Legacy* album, we share NN angst pop which I liked very much. Its very different on Melencolia from this point of view.

- 3) Is now **Corina Nenuphar** a long-term member of the band? How your artistic collaboration has started?

Corina: Black Egg is not really a band in the traditional sense. As Usher pointed out before, it is more like a collective with many different people involved who all bring in their unique artistic skills and perspectives. It was an intense and salutary experience to work on this project as I have never been involved in this kind of collaboration before and I am so thankful to have been a part of the making of this music. In the future I will focus only on my work as a solo artist, so no, I am not going to be a long term member of Black Egg, I was here for two wonderful albums and now it is time for other things.

- 4) Talk us about your new album released by Aufnahme+Wiedergabe. The most part was composed in 2014, is it right?

Corina: That is right, most of it! **Usher** and I started collaborating in early 2014, and I finished my part of the work around November the same year.

Usher: Some few songs were written before, like *Krieg*, *Naked Angel* or *Nation*, with a more industrial sound and inspiration. But most part was composed in 2014, that's right, in that special « melancolian mood ».

- 5) Instead of your debut album, *Legacy From A Cold World*, Melencolia seems to me a more intimistic work, less immediately understandable. It seems to me that the famous **Albrecht**

Dürer's engraving, from which the album takes its title, invites the listener to contemplation and to a careful and engaged listening, or is it wrong?

Corina: Melencolia is different as it was intended to be. The same spirit of the BLACK EGG is within, but maybe it is more introverted in a way. There is definitely an emphasis on more melodic and folk-ish songs, which might also bring about a different energy to the whole listening experience.

Usher : It's different, definitely. I guess you've understood that the sleeve was a variation from Dürer's engraving. The message is different here, it's about the end of the world, alchemy and clairvoyance. Contemplation as a way to the meaning, and engagement . But I insist : the music is different too.

- 6) As well as engravings are often enigmatic, enigmatic are your lyrics too. What do these talk about? Which topics do you use the most and how (if so) these topics differ from your first record to your last two records, Melencolia and Songs of Death and Deception? Do particular references to literature, arts and movies exist?

Corina: For Melencolia there were very distinct influences in terms of the topics. Dürer, Lars Von Trier's movie, even Season 1 True Detective, all have inspired the words and I think you can clearly hear the references when you listen to *KING* for example. Death, fear, extinction and pain as primal emotions and experiences are what was driving the writing for this record.

Usher: Some lyrics are about intimate life experience, like *Naked Angel* or *Stains*, but most of the lyrics from Melencolia are also talking about politics and ethics, like *Nation*, *Krieg*, *Sterilize* (this one about the evilness of mankind destroying nature and earth) and many others. Of course some of them are about « temple stories » and magick sex.

- 7) The choice to release two albums at a short distance is a bit unusual. Your other work, Songs of Death and Deception, has an acoustic sound and has a more dark folk sound. Tell us something about this...

Usher : Well yeah. The fact is we had finished the Melencolia album when I began writing the first song of « Songs of Death and deception », two days after my father's death on october 29th 2014. Melencolia was scheduled to be released at the end of 2014 but unfortunately, the label had big delays from the pressing plant with our white vinyl. And so, when it was finally released, « Songs of Death and Deception » Cd was available in the same week....But it wasn't what we had planned at all.

- 8) The remix of **Ohne Hände** made by **Ancient Methods** has had a wide and deserved success. Could you tell us how the collaboration with **Michael Wollenhaupt** started? Do you think that you'll collaborate together even in the future?

Usher : Michael liked very much our « Legacy » album and he met **Philip Strobel** from [a+w] at Berghain. Michael was doing an Ancient Methods set and suddently played Ohne Hande. Phil was petrified. They met and became goods friends and the idea came to record some remixes, and he did four remixes of Ohne Hande ! I love all of them. Then I had the idea he could mix our song *Egg Mantra*, but he had no time for that, but a collaboration is planned for the future.

- 9) The Nico's *Petit Chavalier* cover is one of our favourite songs. In general, all Black Egg's covers succeed in reinterpreting historic songs giving them a personal charisma. I think, for example, at Fad Gadget's *Back to nature* featured on Songs of Death and Deception. Do you think that today would be important to make emerge once again the work of forerunning artists (but surely less known than **Nico**) like Fad Gadget?

Usher : I have always covered some magickal songs. I mean, the songs I choose to cover are really meaning something to me, most of them have changed my perception on life or opened new mind spaces. I remember « In Heaven » , « TV Eye » or « Ghost Rider » with Norma Loy, or « Something Came Over Me » or « White Light/White Heat » with Die Puppe and now these covers with the Black Egg. These songs are always revelant.

10) What do you think about the live dimension? Is it more or less simple to transfer this so evocative and rich of pathos music on a stage?

Usher : Playing live has been our project since a long time but the members of the Black Egg come from different country, and it's not always easy for us to meet. But with the « Songs from Death and Deception » we don't need so many people, and we're playing together here, in France. So we will play soon on stage.

Corina: I really wanted and really would have enjoyed to play these songs live, I always envision everything I do musically on a stage, it is part of the creative process, and Melencolia would have been so beautiful to perform, like a force of nature, the eye of the storm. Now it will never happen due to the record being delayed for almost a year, I do not have time for a Melencolia tour now. I am a bit sad about that but I am also curious about how the rest of the gang will bring some of the songs to a stage! Power to them, it will most certainly be really intense!

11) What are your further plans for Black Egg? Will you stay on a sound similar to that used in Songs of Death and Deception or will you move toward a more electronic sound?

Usher : No, we are working on a new EP which will be more electronic and industrial.

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