

CLAUS FOVEA - CYANIDE

Viktor Elander, aka **Claus Fovea**, is a Swedish musician devoted to minimal-synth / EBM. He comes from the Swedish island Gotland and is now living in Stockholm. The artist has released two cassettes and a CD-R, **Min 50**, which contains a session of hypnotic electro-EBM (50 minutes actual length). The first tape, pink and untitled, was made in 2013 and includes some songs from his old musical project **Pluto**; while the second, entitled **Into This World**, was made in 2014, and featured six new songs.

Cyanide is his first 7" and was released by **Sham Recordings** in summer 2015 in a limited edition of 70 copies and in a subsequent second edition of 200 copies, both immediately sold out. The work moves between electro-minimal suggestions and definitely old school EBM (**The Klinik**, early **Front 242**, **Cabaret Voltaire** **The Crackdown** era, etc.), finding points of contact and affinity with the work done by Los Angeles electro-EBM band **Pure Ground**. It is not a coincidence that the Swedish artist has just opened the American duo concert in Stockholm.

The first track of the 7" **Cyanide** sounds like a poisonous mix of **Absolute Body Control** tunes and **Front 242's** determination (*Geography*-era), but with his own style. That song has nothing to envy to many American groups now returning to experiment a genre that has many years of a vast following in the Nordic countries and in Europe, especially in Scandinavia. Claus Fovea here (and in his live-set) shows decision and determination; his style is caustic, minimal and essential. He transports us in the alternative and synthetic Eighties, in smoky dance halls where androgyny, original "queer" spirit and dark style prevail.

The second piece of work, **King Ludd**, slows down the beat and turns into a dark minimal synth similar to **The Klinik**. The piece is named after the legendary **Ned Ludd**, a character that inspired the Luddite movement, a working class hero that, in a fit of rage, destroyed a power loom. The theme of the revolt against the machine, which has always been part of a certain anarchic "paleo-EBM" spirit, is perfectly in line with the spirit and the movements of Claus Fovea: Viktor does not surrender to the machine but dance with it. Definitely, he's an artist to follow, waiting for what he has to offer in the future.

Author: Marco De Baptistis

Label: Sham Recordings

Score: 8

<http://fluxproject.altervista.org>