

INTERVIEW TO V ▲ LH ▲ LL

V ▲ LH ▲ LL is a new name of the **Artobject records** roster (we already carefully reviewed their debut **Leaning on shadows**); today we had a chat with them to know more about their *post-witch house* experimental and symphonic sound, about their influences, inspirations, and wildly about their feelings about the way they live their live and studio music. These are their answers to our questions!

- 1) Hi ! Thank you for your kind disponibility for this interview. Leaning on shadows is your first album, but you have been active in the *post-witch house* scene for quite some time; what prompted you to start this project? How did you meet and how did you start working together?

Hi! Nice to get a chance to talk to you and your readers. We got into the scene through recommendations from a friend (**Mircalla**) and started browsing sites like *Soundcloud*, *Bandcamp* and *Youtube* for music in this vein. One of us made a couple of tracks that got great response. We have both been active in other music projects in the past and know each other well. When we talked about the idea and concept of this band (duality, good/evil, male/female, realms of man/lands of gods, myths/realities, present/past and so forth) and the sound we both wanted to explore it came only natural that we should work together. This duality is represented by the two triangles in our band name. We complement each other well and bring different strengths to V ▲ LH ▲ LL.

- 2) I'm not aware of other scandinavian bands in this genre, of course there are many famous swedish electronic bands like **The Knife** or norwegian one like **Royksopp**, but they play(ed) in a different kind of contest. How come you haven't followed their way, like many did in and out of Sweden instead?

Well we try to keep up to date with what happens all over the world both musically and otherwise. We have a lot of influences from a lot of different genres and love both The Knife and Röyksopp. However when we started V ▲ LH ▲ LL we were not after that kind of sound. We were influenced by music that hadn't (and actually still hasn't) caught on in Scandinavia. We wanted to go electronic but keep it underground, dark and mystical. If we should try to find a parallel to those bands it would be the kind of organic and alive atmosphere of the music that we would say exists in our work as well.

- 3) Your music is full of neo-classical elements and atmosphere. Where does this influence comes from?

This question is linked to the last one. It has to do with our broad taste in music. The stories we want to tell with our music goes well with huge epic orchestral soundscapes. We are trying to find a balance between the modern electronics which we rely heavily on when we produce and the feeling of passing ages, solitude, melancholy and ancient times that we often try to summon.

- 4) *SAT4NIC RI7UAL ABUSE* and *RUN3S IN CIRCLES* have both a more "regular" witchy sound. Are they older songs more linked to what was happening at the time of their conception?

Most of the songs on *Leaning On Shadows* were written, rewritten and redited many times during 2013-2014 until they became what we wanted them to be. *SRA* would be the oldest song on the album in its original version but was actually the last song completely finished. The foundation of *RUN3S IN CIRCLES* was also created quite early. This might be what you experience as those might have been colored by our

influences at that time, but really all the songs on the album just became what they became and we never intended or worked towards a specific sound on any of them.

- 5) You've chosen to have a deluxe edition of your album, strictly limited and paired with a cassette, *Shadows*, where your music is reworked in a more ambient style. Is it a "dark twin" of the regular album? Did you want to show another less easy and more experimental side of your music?

Yes and no. The entire album is quite experimental but in other ways. The cassette was just another outlet and a chance to explore some different ideas we had that would not fit the actual album. But still it's very much connected to *Leaning On Shadows* and you can feel the same mood flow through the cassette. It is its own entity though and the two 15 minutes tracks are not just reworked album tracks but rather a way to explore the concept of V▲LH▲LL through another set of eyes. Also we just like making noise.

- 6) How important is to you your *live* activity? Are your concerts a way to create a "ritual" that perfect and complete the experience offered by your studio music?

We love playing live and, as you say, that gives us a chance to offer a full experience of our music. We would never get on stage and just push the play button. Then you might as well just listen to our tracks at home. When we do a show we want to present as much of V▲LH▲LL as possible and we always make lots of preparations to be able to offer a great show. Our visuals are very important and we have our own video projections running for the tracks as well as both of us giving energy to the stage with live vocals and synthesizers and whatever else we can come up with. So far we have only had great response from our audience.

- 7) Artofact records seems to be very interested in this kind of music. It released both yours and **Aaimon's** debut; do you feel some kind of "kinship" with your colleague?

Absolutely. We both come from the so called witch house scene and Aaimon was one of the first bands we loved in that scene. We remixed each other early on and Aaimon's recommendation was one of the reasons Artofact Records found us and also one of the reasons why we joined the label. They are both great people and we consider them friends as well as fellow musicians.

- 8) I would like to know about your influences and tastes in music.

Oh there's so much here that we can't even begin mentioning bands/artists. We are very much into alternative/experimental music and especially electronic music but we are not limited to that. Electro/Neofolk/Industrial/Noise/Pop/EBM/Techno/Dubstep/Witchhouse/Metal /You name it! We have favorites within almost any genre.

- 9) Do you already have any idea about how would you like your music to evolve in the future? Is it a product of what you feel at the moment? Are you working on some other project too, are you touring or both of them?

Well our main focus is V▲LH▲LL now and we can't see that changing anytime soon. There are still far too many ideas we haven't explored yet and things we want to do with this project. We are just getting started! We are already working on our next album and will also be playing live shows with the "Leaning On Shadows" material during 2015 but we have no proper "tour" planned. We have also got some fantastic remixes of the new tracks and we are planning some kind of release of those as well.

- 10) Please, say hello to our readers and invite them to buy your new album!

Hi FLUX readers! Thank you for taking your time to read our rants. We hope you got curious and that you will like our music as much as we like making it. Please support us. Buy our album and above all tell your local club/event/festival promoter to book a gig with us. We give you permission to threaten him/her with blunt weapons. Hopefully we'll see you in 2015!