

So who are...

Salem

the sound of the end to how it was

Mystery and intrigue. The two words most commonly flirted around by those lucky few who have had the delight of listening to SALEM. Trawling through blogs, following their droning, down tempo pop down unforgiving routes. Horror walks arm in arm with Euphoria. Their sound epitomises a true underground, a lonely underground inhabited only by oneself, yet through this shared isolation the idea of unity prevails. A friend of Salems is probably a friend of yours. Hailing from Americas midwest, their debut EP 'Yes we smoke crack' sold out on presales alone. More rumbling thunder than any form of wave, Salem are driving the bandwagon that soon we'll all be jumping on. SUSANNE OBERBECK AKA NO BRA finds out more.

SUPERSUPER: I first came across your band when a friend posted your video to the song "Dirt" which I thought was amazing. It's really creepy and feels like quite an aggressive statement. Was it inspired by various horror films and if so which ones, and/or by real life?

S: No, it wasn't really inspired by any horror film. We had this idea that if you were to die from exhaust asphyxiation the girl on the car would come upon you.

SS: Are you interested in the topic of sexual repression at all or was it more of an aesthetic choice?

S: No, none of us are sexually repressed, and it's not something we think about that often.

SS: What kind of things turn you on and what motivates you to write songs?

S: Mysteries that have not been solved, tire fires and river snakes.

SS: I think what's interesting about your sound is that it's quite hard to trace where it's located exactly musically or geographically. What I mean is it's original. What would you say are some of your main influences?

S: We influence each other more than anything else. We are also all very connected to nature.

SS: In some of the songs like "skullcrush" I hear an underlying sense of violence, or maybe it's just generally sexual. What is your opinion about violence and S&M sex or do you think it's a bit of a cliché?

S: We like sex that is aggressive and violent, more like S&S (Sado-sadism) than S&M. We don't use safety words. Skullcrush is a cover of a song by our friend Paul Kopkau.

SS: What about the Salem witch trials? How do you feel about witches?

S: All of us are witches.

SS: What instruments do you use and do you all play/program and sing, or who does what?

S: Everything we do is collective. Usually Jack will make a beat and then John and I will do the keyboards and singing. But we all work very closely together even when we are apart. In the past there was no rehearsal, we would just record.

SS: Would you say that you all have a very specific vision and if so is this also politically motivated in the widest sense of the word?

S: No.

SS: Are you interested in the occult? If so which writers/schools of occultism?

S: We are, but we would rather not talk about it.

SS: You haven't done any live shows yet have you? What are your plans for the live show, can you reveal what it's gonna be like?

S: We are playing a few small shows in the states. In May we are going to Rome for a festival. We have a lot of plans as far as the performance is concerned, but it will depend on our resources. We will play for anyone who has an empty pool.

SS: Will you be touring the UK?

S: Hopefully, we haven't sorted out all the details as of yet.

SS: One of my favorite songs of yours is 'Tent'. I was really intrigued by the lyrics. Can you reveal what the song is about?

S: The song Tent is about being with someone but not being with them at all. It is sexual in the sense that you can be in the same bed with someone but feel so far away from them.

SS: How do you feel about people reading things into your lyrics, especially 'Tent'. Do you care? Do you think your lyrics can rope you into a specific sexual identity or scene?

S: We are completely ambivalent towards sexual scenes, we don't care as we are not allied with anything. It is good when people listen to our music enough to form their own ideas about it.

SS: How do you feel about being fetishized?

S: We like getting people off.

SS: What is the reason behind keeping the band's image quite mysterious? Are you using this as a marketing tool or because you hate the way bands are being marketed?

S: We aren't trying to be mysterious. We aint playin.

SS: Do drugs/drug experiences influence your music?

S: Our experiences always influence our music and overall sound. We don't have anything to say on the subject of drugs.

“ We are completely ambivalent towards sexual scenes ”

Photography by Zulma Gonzales