

“Don’t create music just to be making noise. Don’t do that. You’re making self-serving arrogant noise, you’re polluting the planet! Do something to move someone else!” – *Songwriter and producer Patrick Adams, May 27, 2013*



PHOTO BY OSCAR VILLANUEVA

SOUND AND VISION

Raster-Noton’s Carsten Nicolai on the intersection of art and music.

CARSTEN NICOLAI IS INTERESTED in abstraction, a process by which we come to interpret and understand the world. Also known by his pseudonyms Noto and Alva Noto, under which he records electronic music, he founded the avant-garde label Raster-Noton in 1999 along with friends Olaf Bender and Frank Bretschneider. Based in Chemnitz, Germany (where all three grew up), Raster-Noton was founded in order to create a platform for conceptual

and experimental projects in music, art, publishing, and science.

The label’s aesthetic focus is rhythmic, radical minimalism, full of glitchy clicks and knocks, an exploration into the wider topic of sound that’s partnered with unconventional and equally minimal package design.

Many of the artists on the label work across different media—Nicolai himself comes from an architecture and visual arts background. He moved into sound production when he found himself suddenly unsatisfied with visual art. “It’s very much oriented towards what you deliver, and the whole process of creation is not really visible,” Nicolai says. He began to experiment with the idea of sound being manipulated as a material form. “I found that it could provide what I was looking for. Sound has a process, it’s time-based—it materializes where you start to hear and where you cannot hear anymore.”

He started out pairing the sonic and visual worlds by experimenting with high frequencies, using oscilloscopes and other tools to turn sound into tangible matter. In his live shows it sometimes seems that sight and hearing are merged, making scientific phenomena like sound and light frequencies perceivable by both eyes and ears. “As electronic musicians, we’re not really performing with an instrument where the audience can see what’s going on,” says Nicolai. “The visuals perform rather than us. The visuals analyze the music, and a graphical representation of sound ‘performs.’ You see nature and have to understand what it’s about. And then you have to make your own picture of it.”

—OLIVIA GRAHAM

REC ROOM

The participants of Red Bull Music Academy 2013 spend most of their time in New York making, experiencing, living, and breathing music. We figured their drive and obsession had to start somewhere, so we asked them about their first music purchases, and why they were special.



EMUFUCKA

TOKYO, JAPAN

It was the vinyl of “Seven Seas Voyage,” by a Japanese rap group called Mic Jack Production. At that time, I was 17 years old and MCing. I was in love with the track and their emotional lyrics. The song combines the emotional depth and delicate feel that Japanese [people] have.

soundcloud.com/emufucka



ANNALOVE

AUSTIN, TEXAS

The first record I ever bought was Radiohead’s *Kid A*. Since I grew up on an Air Force base, I was kind of sheltered. We were late on everything that was hip... or maybe it was just me. Regardless, when I heard that record I was dumbfounded. That album was the reason I got into electronic music.

soundcloud.com/annalove



MR. SELFISH

ROME, ITALY

The untitled album by Blur. I think it was special because a mainstream band came out with an indie-oriented record that was strange and eclectic. When my father listened to it he said, “This sounds like the Beatles!” It was almost like a ’90s *White Album*. The guitar sound of Graham Coxon influenced me a lot.

soundcloud.com/mr_selfish



DIRG GERNER

LONDON, ENGLAND

I honestly can’t remember which the actual first one was, but *Funcrusher Plus* by Company Flow is one of the first ones that I remember. I spent a couple of summers on the skateboard listening to this a lot.

soundcloud.com/dirggerner



Red Bull Music Academy
New York 2013

~~SANT VITUS~~

~~ONEOHTRIX
POINT NEVER
EVIAN CHRIST
BILL KOULIGAS
MORE~~

~~MAY
26~~

~~LEW SKIRBALL CENTER~~

~~A TALK
WITH
JAMES
MURPHY~~

~~MAY
27~~

~~DEVIATION @ SULLIVAN ROOM~~

~~BENJI B
FALTYDL
DORIAN
CONCEPT
MORE~~

~~MAY
27~~

~~WEST PARK CHURCH~~

~~PANTHA
DU PRINCE
& THE BELL
LABORATORY~~

~~MAY
28~~

~~LABARON~~

~~UNO
NYC~~

~~MAY
28~~

TONIGHT

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

ALVA
NOTO +
RYUICHI
SAKAMOTO

MAY
29

UPCOMING EVENTS

(LE) POISSON ROUGE

NYC IN DUB
LEE ‘SCRATCH’ PERRY
THE CONGOS
PEAKING LIGHTS
SUN ARAW
ADRIAN SHERWOOD

MAY
30

OUTPUT

L.I.E.S.
KERRI CHANDLER
MATHEW JONSON
MOSCA
MORE

MAY
31



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