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Interview de Rubik: Melting-pop !

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Dr. Javnaire: In France we don't know you too much. Could you tell us the main things about your band?

We started the band in 2003. At that time there were just four of us. And then we released our first album in 2007. Then our second album came out in Finland in 2009, and that is the one that is in France right now.

So, now we are height. And there are from six to eight of us playing, depending on the shows. For example, we were just seven tonight. And sometimes, we don't even know who's gonna make the show...

Yeah, that's pretty much the story in a nutshell!

Dr. Javnaire: There are so many instruments on stage! It's very impressive! How many instruments do you play?

Between fifteen and twenty, I think. But, even if it will be more in our next album, I don't think it's the main thing. We just like to try out new things. Bringing new instruments over the time has always been something natural for us. But every time, all is about songs. Instruments are here for the songs.

Pierro: Yeah, it's funny because you are seven on stage, with twenty instruments, and all of you are playing. Your music could seem chaotic but it is in fact very melodic. Did you work a lot to improve the arrangement?

Yes, we do work a lot! We mainly write in studio and it allows us to explore much more, to always try new things. We do not try to be tight to *traditional* bands.

Dr. Javnaire: But isn't it difficult to create together?

Yeah, you're right! (*laughs*) We fight a lot but we are all friends with each other, so everybody knows it's for the "common good".

Dr. Javnaire: How did you choose such a name and what does it mean to you, "Rubik"?

Well, it's very hard to justify because everybody is thinking about some cubical object from the eighties. But we actually pick the name without that sense. It was just name. But it's funny because we noticed that people are often comparing that thing to our music, like: "Your music has so many sides", or "is unsolved"... I just think it's so many craps! (*laughs*)

Dr. Javnaire: On the contrary, I imagine that *Dada Bandits* has a true sense for you, no?... What is a "Dada Bandit"?

A "Dada Bandit" is someone who still... You know, there are people who always use phrases and words out of their original context and then they reorganize them to the way that suits them the best. This happens a lot in politics, of course. And the way they rearrange those things really looks like Dada. Then, those people are kind of "Dada Bandits". So we thought it could be a good slogan to name those people. And this process also happens in our personal life. Even unconsciously, we might hear something here and there, and make a sort of synthesis which could be heard in our music.

Dr. Javnaire: And how would you describe your music?

(*Laughs*) It's pop! (*laughs spread*) I'm aware it's not like the pop music made in other countries, but it's our pop music!

Pierro: Melting-pop!

(Laughs) Yeah! Or *interesting* pop music! It may have *twist* in it but I do love the fact that it is pop music. We want to make it big, right? But it's pop music: P-O-P! (*laughs*)

Pierro: Your music is very ecstatic, sometimes maybe even orgasmic. Why are you doing those incessant up and down curbs?

I don't know. We're probably too impatient as people. We want the songs to reflect different moods. We are so many in the band that everybody is bringing his own influences, and... And again, it's all about songs. We try to follow them.

Dr. Javnaire: But it's also extremely noisy! Maybe have you a problem with silence, don't you?

(*Laughs*) Well, yes, we probably do! But we don't think about that when we write songs. I think it's also about impatience: we want something happens in every second. But we try to learn from that. Even if sometimes we still could not. On future, it may change...

Dr. Javnaire: Are you writing a new album at the moment?

Actually yes. It's kind of ready. It's recorded and... actually, before the show, we even recorded something... So we just have to arrange the last few things. And I think it's gonna be out next spring.

Dr. Javnaire: On that subject, do you prefer the process of creation or lives?

Both, even if they are completely different. When we are in studio, we really miss playing live, and when we are in tour, it's the contrary.

Being in studio, is very good because it is where the sound is created, that's the basis of the music. But then, playing live is also beautiful. It's like you can take your children out and show them to people. That's much more personal, you know.

And live for us is also important because it is the place where we can improve and improvise. You always have to give your best and we love that. Sometimes, we even don't have a setlist, and...

Dr. Javnaire: Yeah, but that's not pop, that's rock!

(Laughs) Well, you got us!

Pierro: Are you close to other bands on the Finnish musical scene (because we don't know so much Finnish band in France)?

In general in Finland, it's all about heavy metal or band singing in Finnish, so they can hardly export their music. But I guess that the Finnish indie scene started to evolve wide in the last fifteen years.

Dr. Javnaire: And maybe because of the Swedish scene which is very attractive and energetic at the moment. In France, for example, we hear a lot of Swedish bands...

Yeah, you're probably right but there is... an *interesting* relationship between Finland and Sweden.

Pierro: A rivalry!

Yeah, but we are losers! We're one of the only bands outside our home country which are not metal. *(Laughs)* We are losing that contest! But I think there is a small but good indie Finnish scene. Everyone knows each other and... thing is that the so-called scene is pretty much based in the three biggest cities in Finland which are Helsinki, Turku and Tampere – and which would probably be impossible for you to write after hearing them. *(Laughs)*

Pierro: Have you ever tried to sing in suomi (in Finnish)?

We talked about that like a year ago. We almost did it during the record of *Dada Bandit*. I actually wrote lyrics for two songs in Finnish. But luckily or unluckily (we don't know that) we finally didn't. We just let it be... But, maybe for the future!

Pierro: What do you think about other European publics compare to the Finnish one?

In Finland, the public is not enthusiastic about music. People are just standing. But it's kind of cultural not to show your feelings.

Pierro: Nordic stuff...

(Laughs) Yeah, but when you go, for example, in Norway (we had a lot of shows in Norway) it's completely different! But in Finland, there is this kind of invisible wall between people...

Dr. Javnaire: Is it a style to have so many hairs?

(Laughs) We're lazy! ... Yeah! Impatient and lazy! *(laughs)* But you know it's very practical. It's very cold in Finland, so with beard you don't need a scarf at all!

Pierro: To conclude, is there a question you want to be asked?

Hmmm... *(after more than twenty seconds of reflection and laughs)* Wait, wait, wait, we'll find it... I'm thinking about *goose*. Do you guys have seen *Top Gun*? Yeah?

It's a question but you won't be able to answer it... What instrument would "Goose" play in Rubik? *(laughs)* You know "Goose", Maverick's copilot.

Samsa! *(he calls one of the member of the band)* What instrument would "Goose" play in Rubik?

Samsa: huuh... Bass balalaika! *(many laughs)*

(After having get over his friend's answer, he continues) Well, thank you and for everyone who came to our shows. That's what all want to say, I mean, it's been great touring here. It was our first time in France and we were really surprised by the French welcome.