

Profiles

By Marinko Jareb and Sara Scruton

Vague Terrain: A New Perspective on Digital Art

By Marinko Jareb

Sharing the name of Matmos' record label Vague Terrain is the latest project by Neil Wiernik (naw) and Greg Smith (etherman, serial consign). Naw and Smith's past collaboration, Clonk, consisted of successful, forward-thinking techno events in Toronto until Neil moved to Montreal and Greg went off to L.A. to study architecture. Now that they have returned to the mega city, they are working together again promoting a series of events and publishing a quarterly web-journal, www.vagueterrain.net, about electronic music and art.

The journal has academic and artistic overtones which give it much more substance than most electronic music websites. Along with the regular stuff like artist bios and downloadable tracks, each issue is centered around a theme and introduced by a short essay. Each issue of the journal explores some of the theoretical ideas surrounding artwork in the digital realm while providing real world examples of the thematic content; their aim is to transcend the boundaries that separate architectural, artistic, musical and theoretical disciplines. Vague Terrain is a true manifestation of the term

Keeping on Tempo

By Sara Scruton

Unpretentious and non-monetarily focused, the Tempo crew are still hosting events for the love of techno music. Tempo was founded by Daniel Torrance and Curt Martin who have been

IDM in the sense that it is a conduit of lofty concepts for the electronic music community.

The first issue of their web journal examines the 'glitch' as an aesthetic and artistic concern. The term 'glitch' was first coined in 1962 by astronauts as a way to describe fluctuation in electrical current; the glitch was largely an undesirable phenomenon. Not only has the word entered our everyday vocabulary, but it is used to describe any number of mishaps and malfunctions. Artists in the digital realm have been isolating and exaggerating glitches for their aesthetic appeal (think as far back as the feedback in acid rock), largely free from the potentially disastrous (or at least annoying) consequences that an error can cause. The fact that glitches can be isolated and considered apart from consequence is largely what results in glitch art; if every glitch was accompanied by a catastrophe, it is unlikely that art could be made from those irregularities. Through isolation of little problems (inconsistencies in color or tone, crackling, skipping, spikes or feedback) any number of errors have become a new palate of possibility

host to some of Toronto's finest including: Repair, Coordinates, Arthur Oskan, Lionel Dunlop, Eric Lork, Jeff Milligan, Adam Marshall and many others. Moving forward, they plan to

One of the most spectacular, unintentional glitches that I have ever witnessed occurred in the public domain on a video billboard gone haywire. Pixels spat random flashes of color were erratically changing and creating visual rhythms resulting in such amazing patterns. I saw fragments of text and images and was surprised when I looked around and found that most passers by were completely oblivious to this rarity. The glitch may have been a problem for the ad company that owned the sign, but to me it was a pleasant distraction from the barrage of ads normally emitted from the light box.

Vague Terrain events up until now have been relatively low-key affairs, occurring regularly at The Gladstone Hotel's intimate 'Art Bar', however, the duo have decided to put an end to their monthly parties, instead focusing on less frequent, larger outings and improved online content. Currently the theme of their online journal focuses on the digital landscape. The authentic Vague Terrain experience is electronic, so navigate your way towards www.vagueterrain.net and plug in.

continue pushing local DJs and producers, giving them an opportunity to showcase themselves amongst established international acts. As Curt Martin explains, "We need to



We're Going Worldwide

By Marinko Jareb aka DJ Machine

Although Global Booking Agency is based in the US, their influence extends to a global level as an international collective of electronic musicians and DJs who collaborate to strengthen the electronic music scene in North America and beyond. Their primary focus is to provide nightclubs and event promoters with top international techno DJs and electronic performers from across the globe, as well as coordinating tours for their artists. What makes Global unique is that they focus specifically on the art of techno



www.xanuradio.com comes out of a family of various www.xanu.ca projects. Offering web hosting, development and design packages with a musical slant, the Xanu Collective has expanded from internet radio to hosting large size events featuring top name DJs/producers. The Xanu Collective, based out of Toronto, was founded in 2001 by Jeremy K. It quickly grew to become one of the leading electronic music channels on SHOUTcast, a free

show these visiting artists that our talent pool is just as deep as anyone else in the world". You can expect an overall quality night of music and people when attending.

music; while there are many techno booking agencies all over Europe, such as Bikini Booking in Berlin, Global is one of the few with an eye on the genre on this side of the Atlantic Ocean.

Global represents a wide range of talent including: Alex Bau, Marco Polo, Sven Dedek, Emerson, Holgistar, Eric Sneo, W. Jorg Henze, Paul Dailey, Frankie Vega, Gil K., Stryke and Toronto based techno DJ and producer, Greg Gow. Greg Gow, primarily represented by

Xanu not the alien

By Sara Scruton

audio streaming service. Xanu radio plays recorded mixes from residents, special guests and features live shows as well as prerecorded events. There is a diverse group of DJs/producers to be found on Xanu radio with styles varying between techno, house, progressive, tribal and minimal. Some of the artists that can be heard include: Tony Rohr, Alex Tolstey, DJ Target, Greg Gow, Jamie Kidd, Nathan Barato, Arthur Oskan, AEJ, Derek Michaels, Mental Floss,

Tempo happens the last Saturday of every month at The Drake Hotel Underground. For more information visit: www.tempo416.com

Global, is also known for his entrepreneurial zeal through creation of *Restructured* and *Kambustion* record labels. As well Gow is the promoter of the highly successful Mono events in Toronto. Global Booking also works in tandem with Titan International, a European agency based in Austria, by helping to represent, among others, DJs Redhead, Lucca and Filipe in North America.

For more information visit: www.globalbooking.net

Jeremy K and myself, Sara Scruton. Through my personal experience in internet radio I have found that consistency can be rare considering everyone involved is usually volunteering their time and money. On Xanu radio you can expect lots of fresh mixes.

Locale II with DJ Sara Scruton can be heard Sundays @ 6 pm EST time at: www.xanuradio.com