

CITY MIX

a project by Andrea Mi
in collaboration with Intooitiv



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City Mix is a journey among the 'hot-spots' of contemporary electronic creativity. It is a journey among those cities that by nature and vocation have become artistic hotspots: the dynamic hubs of a map in constant expansion. In the ever-growing panorama of multi-media electronic techniques, some cities seem more capable of grasping, motivating and giving space to the productive energy that unites experimentation and high quality production. The voyage had to begin in Florence, in whose underground new energies and projects are moving, capable of renewing the legacy of the pioneers Pankow and Alexander Robotnik. Next it passes by Amsterdam and its kindred spirits, stops off with the rapid advances of Bucharest and Frankfurt in the east, moves onto the fervid activity of an ever-more global Barcelona, and returns south as always to a bewitching and absolutely up-to-date Istanbul. The journey finishes in the city that has done more than any other to build the European electronic landscape: Berlin.... To watch the sky above and the music beneath.

City Mix > Florence

A smile for Timbuctu - Scary Grant - Influx

Describing the music scene in Florence takes you without fail to the late 80s and early 90s, when a wave of groups emerged that are still cult for many, during a period that definitively marked the panorama of Italian independent music. Many musical currents have been active ever since and other young, already significant talents have sprung up from the vibrant Tuscan underground scene that includes festivals such as Nexttech, Fosfeni, Station to Station and Elettrowave. Two of the crux points for the landscape of creative electronica and digital experimentation are the originally named A Smile for Timbuctu and Scary Grant.

City Mix > Amsterdam

Kindred Spirits/Rush Hours Showcase – Aardvark - Rednose Di strikt - Pipslab

The cultural background of Amsterdam has always been attentive to the cultural currents coming out of the Underground. Recent developments in innovative digital technologies have provided a decisive renewal of this cutting-edge status. Festivals and events like Sonicc Acts, the Dutch Electronic Art Festival and Impakt have established themselves as important occasions for reflection and encounter for the best, internationally renowned, Dutch artists.

City Mix > Bucharest / Frankfurt

Dj Shantel - Selfish

In the map of electronic European culture, the Romanian capital is one of the most exciting and noteworthy new entries. The groundbreaking work of festivals like Rokolectiv in music production and AVMotional for video has gathered and given visibility to an active and interdisciplinary scene. Youthful Romanian talent has already begun to be appreciated in keynote European festivals like Sonar in Barcelona and Transmediale in Berlin.

City Mix > Barcelona / Sao Paulo

Pixelbirds

The Catalan city is now considered to be the European capital of avant-garde music, especially in light of established festivals like Sonar and Primavera, which have brought the top figures of the international avant-garde to the city for years. They have been placed alongside the local scene, in an electronic landscape that combines the vivid colour of electronic experimentation with the visual exploration of the new generation of artists. There are many links to the Brazilian city, rooted over in a tight network of exchange and artistic residences, amongst which the all-female Pixelbirds' project ranks as one of the most significant.

City Mix > Istanbul

Dj Hugo Chavez & Vj Ahmedinejad - Mercan Dede and Tanya Evanson - Portecho – Dj Macit - Vj Blanche

Having hit the headlines with the great success of the film Crossing the Bridge, the Istanbul music scene is revealing the artistic ferment that has been incubating for years in the cellars and clubs of the Turkish capital and is now ready to conquer an international audience. Video artists who can rework their folklore in a Situationist register, musicians who breathe new life into their own audio roots by grounding them in electronic culture, and artists who are riding the digital wave are all playing their part in marking out Istanbul as one of the most productive centres devoted to languages of the future.

City Mix > Berlin

Jan Jelinek - Phon.o -Virgilio Villoresi

Few can remain in any doubt that the German city is the true epicentre of the seismic shocks that have rocked the electronic scene in the last few years. This not least, because more and more international artists choose it as a place to live. The once-divided city has continued to revitalize its scene which continues to mature through the devoted work of labels such as Scape, Bpitch Control, K7, Shitkatapult, and festivals such as Transmediale and Pictoplasma, which serve as inexhaustible reservoirs of ideas and artistic connections. Berlin has succeeded in responding to the legacy of Krautrock and the cosmic sound of the 70's with an innate avant-garde energy which has made it into the home ground of electronic dub, of new techno-minimalism, of electro... in other words of all the principal strands of the new club culture. Berlin: a symphony of a city in constant acceleration.