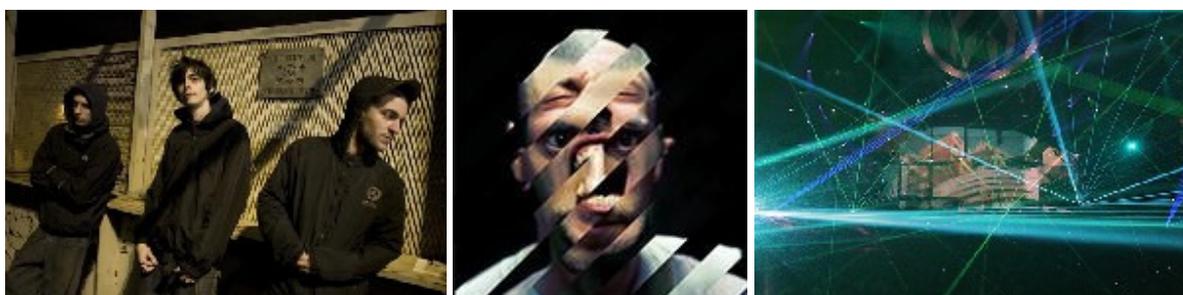


CITY MIX 2008

a project by Andrea Mi
in collaboration with Intooitiv



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City Mix is a project by Andrea Mi in collaboration with Intooitiv configured as a journey among the "Hot Spots" of contemporary electronic creativity, in those cities which by nature and vocation are the hot spots of artistic merging and propulsive junctions on a constantly expanding map.

In the ever-widening panorama of the arts and electronic mixmedial experiences, some towns more than others seem able to collect, motivate and give space to productive energies which put together research, experimentation and production quality, tracing a new outline of European culture under the sign of digital sharing and networking.

The journey can start from nowhere but Florence, in whose undergrowth new energies and project creations spring up, well able to win a place on the ever more crowded European scene, moving through far-sighted Holland with its avant-garde cities such as Amsterdam and Rotterdam, stopping in Cologne, German epicentre of the culture club, and finishing in a night of "full immersion" in the new nightlife of London.

CITY MIX > FLORENCE

Of late, the independent Florentine electronic scene is making a great effort to establish itself as one of the most interesting and surprising in the Italian panorama. Although it is true that, apart from a few happy exceptions, the clubs' situation is lacking, few other Italian cities can boast such a number of festivals and specialised events: Nextech, Elettrowave, Muv, Screenmusic and SwitchOff act as boosters of digital creativity and showplaces for much emerging talent.

CIBOIDEALE: *Iceberg* _ installation

Ciboideale is an artistic crew born in Florence in 2002. They act using photography, installations, performances, actions and video. Among their most interesting works the series of actions/defection, the mail-art actions (Quarter, Florence, 2005), the provocative non-authorized incursions (Contemporary Art Biennial, Florence, 2007; Fabbrica Europa, Florence, 2006; Pecci Museum, Prato, 2002). Their videos have been shown at the Siracusa Film Festival, VideoPuntoZero, CyborgFestival and have been published in *Corti in Libreria*, Mir Ed.

METÙO _ mixed media live

METÙO is an audio video project revolving around the energies of various artists brought together by the common desire to "dream not mean". From interactive installations and multi-sensory performances, Giorgia Angiuli (laptop, guitar, toys, keyboard, voice, smells), Tommaso Bianchi (artistic production), Blanche (videos), Amelie Labarthe (voice) and Master T (mixing and electronics) develop a complex world of sweet, estranging melodies, rhythmic accelerations overlapping into Pop, playful, perfumed visions. Feverish and surreal is the universe of Metùo, which tries to make tangible the desire (common to a certain "bedroom generation") to stay, eyes closed and headphones on, as if in a golden-barred prison. Sounds, images and smells as intrinsic elements of a soft synesthetic labyrinth invaded by grace, lightness and magnificent groove.

ETHER _ live/dj set

Andrea Bracali and Andrea Masi met in Florence in the second half of the Nineties. After a series of appearances in local music projects, their debut under the name Ether came in 2001 with *Tree of Porphyry*, a self-production followed by *Nunca Mais* of 2003, the soundtrack of the environmentalist documentary on the tragedy of the Prestige oil tanker off Galizia. The duo's sound, meanwhile, reached towards minimalism without losing its strong melodic, groovevy, carefree content: from this came Tin-Tole-Lata, a side-project remote from the intimism of the Ether, rousing the interest of AI Records, the "neuelectronica" label, which included the Tin-Tole-Lata, featuring their Hue Song, in the Station sampler. The arrival of the project of Francesco Bigazzi, talented Florentine dj and manipulator, widened the Ether's outlook and they started to collaborate with Mousikelab. Included in the Condominium compilation and inserting the EP *Quasi Quasar* via PersistenceBit Records, they reached the adult debut of *Intimo Personelles* for the eclectic Neapolitan label. More recently the EP *Interferenzo* appeared on the English Audio Aubergine label and collaboration started with Homework and Betulla records.

ALFA ROMERO _ live/dj set

The Alfa Romero project came from Francesco Parra (Eclat) and Marzio Aricò (Prudo) to explore the "darker" side of dance. The duo was already known for its productions and remixes under the name Eclat & Prudo on labels such as Moodmusic (GER), Dirt Crew Recordings (GER), Music For Freaks (UK), PIAS (UK), Trapez (GER) and others; its sound was oriented towards a tech-funk based on solid rhythms, essential tracks and a strong sense of the dancefloor. In some ways it could be called minimal house, but they prefer to call it simply funk! The productions and remixes named Alfa Romero were supported by the best international dj's such as Marco Carola, Ricardo Villalobos, David Duriez, Dirt Crew, MANDY, Davide Squillace, Troy Pearce, Karotte and many others. Their sets have already been hosted in some of the main European clubs and festivals (their performance at the Sonar in Barcellona 2006 was unforgettable) and they will soon be the stars in the prestigious surroundings of the Miami Dance Conference 2008.

Live, Alfa Romero offers a mash-up somewhere between a dj set and a real live making records and computers interact in a rhythmic continuum that becomes deadly for any dancefloor.

BLANCHE _ vj set

Silvia Bianchi, aka Blanche, is one of the most famous vj's and visual artists on the Italian scene. In spite of her youth (she was born in Pisa in 1984) she can boast a good deal of experience in live exhibitions and as curator of events, festivals and reviews devoted to audiovisual culture.

In recent years she has curated vj-sets for many of the most famous Italian dj's and producers, among whom Popolous (Morr Music), Ether (MousikeLab), Drama Society and for some among the most influential leaders of international electronics such as Richard Dorfmeister (G7), Andy Smith (Portishead/Trojan Rec.), Daniel Meteo (Scape), Ellen Allien (B-pitch), Apparat (Shitkatapult), Daedalus (Ninjatune), Tomboy (Kitsunè), Chloè (Kill the dj), Andy Smith (Portishead), Richard Dorfmeister, Vibronics, Channel One, Soul Jazz Records, Grand Wizard Theodore. She has taken part in numerous Italian and foreign festivals, among which are LPM (Rome), Arezzo Wave, Muv (Florence), Homework (Bologna), Nextech (Florence), MarryKlain (Munich), Avit (Berlin).

Her aesthetic research concentrates on the creation of toned-down atmospheres where layers of vision overlie one another, colouring each other in play on transparencies. She collaborates and has collaborated, furthermore, in carrying out audiovisual projects with: Retina.it (Mousikelab), Marco Messina (Mousikelab), Metuo and Besegher and Flushing Device (Betulla rec.), with whom she did the "Desperate" project.

She is co-director of the Italian portal Vjcentral.it and collaborates with the e-mag Digimag for which she writes on Vjing and Live Media.

In January 2007 her work was chosen to appear on the BMW Serie1 site One Like No One, the portal that BMW devotes to the latest trends in electronic culture. Blanche was The One for January 2007 with an entire page of the Visual section dedicated to her work.

CITYMIX > AMSTERDAM

In the international map of the electronic and digital arts the Netherlands and Amsterdam have a relevant position. Amsterdam is one of the most important city at European level thanks to its unique range of events. In the last years The Amsterdam Dance Event is become the biggest club festival in the world, with no less than 300 djs and artists who perform in exceptional performances and label nights in 30 clubs, and with spaces dedicated to the new media and media arts. Very important are also events such like the Sensation White and Sensation Black (which tranform the Ajax football stadium in a vast danceclub with 35.000 visitors, all dressed in white or black) and the Dance Valley.

Concerning the most innovative digital languages, festivals and showcases like Sonic Acts have become important encounter's occasions for the best and most innovative Dutch and international artists. Last but not least, Amsterdam is also the city of legendary music temples like the Melkweg and the Paradiso which include in their programmes the most popular and innovative music.

TOM TRAGO (Kindres Spirits) _ live

Tom Trago comes from a hip-hop background and slowly developing his style into an eclectic mix of hip-hop to techno. While holding down residencies in Amsterdam and Paris, he just cooled down from gigs at Platic People in London and Wasserwerk in Switzerland.

His first outing as a producer in 2006 'Live With the BBQ' is a kind of b-boy styled variant of house, at times bringing to mind Carl Craig or early material from Recloose.

Next to all this, he did a project on Kindred Spirits called "Fluor Green" in which he is putting Amsterdam on the map for dirty instrumental beats. All in the spirit of promoting new and innovative electronic music, Tom set up 08bar in 2005 together with some Amsterdam friends, 08bar wants to stimulate talent, and promote electronic music in Holland, and beyond. Besides organising parties, 08bar also puts out records. The records contain a compilation of the best tracks that are submitted @ the 08Bar parties, with exclusive tracks from some producers that already have albums out, as well as some really talented bedroom-producers nobody knew about yet.

His sets are exciting sound journeys among disco legacies, funk spirit and techno softness.

PARRA SOUNDSYSTEM (Rush Hour) _ mixed media live + action painting

The project of this eclectic collective of artists borns in 2006 from an idea of the visual artist Parra who, for the opening party of an exhibition in Paris, gathers the mc and singer Lyrical Tie, the dj and producer Wix (resident dj at the Paradise) and the musician Tom Trago. From this moment on the group organizes a series of events, called Baguette Frappant , already known around the world.

Designer, photographers, directors, djs and producers fuse their talent in performances which mix new graphic signs, action painting, design and electronic beats.

CITYMIX > ROTTERDAM

in collaboration with
Sound Architecture and Rotterdam Electronic Music Festival

Since some years Rotterdam plays at international level a central role in the world of the electronic research thanks to a huge net of clubs (the urban Now & Wow, the eclectic Bumb and the innovative Waterfront), thanks to some worldwide known dj (Speedy J, Steve P, Steim) and to prestigious label and stages. The two most important festivals are the Rotterdam Electronic Music Festival for clubbing (with conference, fairs, exhibitions, workshops and 200 electro, house, techhouse, deephouse, hip hop, nujazz, minimal performances) and the Dutch Electronic Art Festival for experimental music, in which the V2 - Institute for the Unstable Media investigates the questions related to art, technology, science and society with a huge programme of concerts, performances, seminars, workshops.

Further important events of the contemporary Rotterdam are the North Sea Jazz Festival, the largest indoor festival in the world (with 1200 musicians and 13 stages) and the FFWD Dance Parade (Dutch version of the Love Parade).

LITERON aka GERD (Fortek, Ec records, Novamute)_ live

Literon aka Gerd is one of the explosive talent of the Dutch scene. Right-hand-man of Speedy J in the series Collabs 200 for successful dancefloor techno productions, he takes the name of Gerd when he decides to produce an eclectic sound that can be called future soul.

In the hit parades of a lot of countries he is known as the author of hits such as Arkest's Blazeand and cult albums like This Touch Is Greater Than Moods.

He has collaborated with the most important dance protagonists of the last ten years: among others, Tom Middleton, Kirk DeGiorgio, Leftfield's, Future Sound of London, Fila Brazillia. Very impressive is the list of his remix for Koop, Terry Callier, Jazzanova, Zuco 103...

Among their principal supporters there are Tiefschwarz, Steve Bug, Richie Hawtin and Alter Ego.

MONICA ELECTRONICA (Petrol) _ dj set

Emma Baas aka Monica Electronica was born in 1978 in Delft. Coming from a musical family, Emma was collecting vinyls at a young age. During her study she bought two old recordplayers, borrowed a mixer from a friend and threw parties at home.

From 2002 she became more active as a dj. She started playing in several famous clubs in The Netherlands, and played at Duth festivals: Awakenings, Lowlands, FFWD Danceparade and Dance Valley.

In 2004 Monica started to travel around to spin the weels with international gigs in Belgium, Germany, Luxemburg, UK, Russia, China, Switzerland, and in june 2005 she made her first tour through Russia for 5 weeks. Together with Josz Le Bon she created the project The Infamous Mudclub.

Her absolutely feminine and particular style gives her sets a big energy, coming from eclectic references to the electronic dance.

MEDIAONTWERPERS _ live visual

Mediaontwerpers is a group of young multimedia artists, founded by Ian Cassels, Aron den Boer and Rutger Verspeek with the aim to build interactive installations mixing visual art, sound and interaction design. Each member of the group has his specific specialization: Ian is a computer and electronic technician, Aaron is a visual artist and Rutger is a 3D technician.

With various hardware sensors, other interactive tools and a significant dose of weird humour as ingredients a Mediaontwerpers production never fits, but always surpasses the expectations. Mediaontwerpers themselves produces every single item including the hardware, the stories the performance and the visuals. The only objective is to please the audience during the party's with it's interactive installations.

CITYMIX > COLOGNE

in collaboration with
Refugium Records, Beat Boutique

In this moment, in the electronic music production, almost no country offers a range of styles comparable to that of Germany. The cities and the regions between the northern Flensburg and the southern Friedrichshafen have today a huge independent scene including all the creative chain of production with many small labels, clubs, a net of important festivals and events (like c/o pop - Cologne on pop), a remarkable multimedia net of magazines (Spex, De.bug, Groove) and a considerable number of internet forum. Cologne is also considered the capital of the electronic avant-garde, since the researches by Herbert Eimert and Karlheinz Stockhausen until Can, Kraftwerk and Cluster and the techno revolution in the late '80s.

ADA (Areal records) _ live

Michaela Dippel, aka Ada, started her musical career as a singer in a rock band back in 1994. As the band slowly incorporated synthesizers and samplers into their repertoire, Ada too started exploring electronic music. Whilst already receiving acclaim for her remix work, it was her debut release 'Blindhouse' that signalled there was much to look forward to from Ada. Skip ahead to late 2004, Ada's debut artist album Blondie is released. The ten sumptuous mini-symphonies of synth-pop, techno and omnipotent minimal sounds further Ada as part of the nouvelle vague.

Her performance at the Barcelona Sonar 2005 has been acclaimed as one of the best of the festival.

Ada's music sounds fresh and oozes a contemporary Cologne sheen but it's also warm and endearingly retro in its embrace of timeless song structures and analog tools.

KERNES (Refugium / Beat Boutique) _ dj set

Kernes, in spite of his youth, is one of the protagonists of the musical scene of Cologne. He is musical journalist, resident dj for the one-night Beat Boutique and art director of the label Refugium, a label which through a work of scouting aims to bring in more openness and flexibility the Cologne nightlife scene and to support stylistic open young producers giving them the possibility to represent themselves.

In his eclectic sets Kernes combines minimal, deephouse, techhouse, oldskool electro and funky breaks.

LICHTFRONT VJ'S (Cologne) _ vj set

Lichtfront is a designers collective group based in Cologne. They did their first visual remix in collaboration with Miss Kittin in 2001. After broadcast on Germany's music television station VIVA 2, the great response pushed the group to go further and improve their graphic skills towards live Vjing with the aim to interpret sounds directly through unique images and intensify the overall impact of their live events.

Lichtfront VJ's are invited to play all over the world, from the biggest music festivals in Europe like Fib Benicássim, Monegros Desert Festival, Nature One, Mayday, the Love Parade, Timewarp and Creamfields Andalucia to Asian hot-spots such as Zoukout Singapore, Cream Manila and Winterlove Taiwan. They play visual sets for DJ Hell, Miss Kittin, Carl Cox, Paul van Dyk, Sven Väth, Tiga, 2Many DJ's, Turntablerocker, Kompakt artists, Vitalic, David Caretta, Moguai, Deep Dish, Paul van Dyk, Digitalism, Alter Ego, Alexander Kowalski and many more.

CITYMIX > LONDON

in collaboration with
Goodfellas, Placet Mu, Elastica Records

Ain't no doubt about it: London can be still considered the European capital of the club culture and the electronic research, a city with a constant and radical cultural renewal in which the solidity of the musical industry is able to capture the innovations coming from the underground scene. If London can boast historical clubs like the Fabric and the Ministry of Sound which are still able to attract, propose and produce the big stars of the international clubbing, and others, like the Bar Rhumba, The End, the Cargo or the Electric Birdcage, are also in the limelight.

On the other hand, even more institutional spaces of the London culture (Victoria and Albert Museum, ICA) are giving space to the new sounds and the electronic languages. Very important in the London music scene are also festivals like the Wireless at the Hyde Park or onedotzero at the ICA or radio stations like BBC 1xtra together with a capillary net of labels like Warp and Planet Mu. In this ocean of sounds the happy island is actually the Dubstep: a music genre which summarizes many years of sound made in UK.

TELEMATIK GURU (Elastica) _ live

The project was born in 2005 from an idea of Lapo Grossi and Nicholas Present (laptop set). In September 2006 with the inclusion of Luigi Savio (drum & synth), Léonard Politi (violin & electronics) and Jacopo Botti (drum & synth) it evolves in the actual project of electronic instrumental music pervaded by fresh influences from hip hop/dubstep, oriented towards post rock atmospheres. They performed live in Florence (Switch Out, EX MUD, Plasma, MUV Festival and Festival of creativity), Bologna (Link), Milan (Leoncavallo, Videodrome Festival), Rome (Rialto di Sant'Ambrogio). Always in 2007 they participated in the Elettrowave Challenge and, in collaboration with Switch, they inaugurated the new Florentine centre of contemporary art of Palazzo Strozzi.

NUMA CREW (Elastica) _ dj set

N.U.M.A. (new massive underground alliance) is a crew which was born in Florence in 2005, composed of the DJ and producers Lapo Grossi, Jacopo Botti, Leonard Politi (Telematik Guru) and Mk Links and Ninja (La Primera). N.U.M.A. crew launches the production of Elastica, publishing the first release in December 2007. With its deep and elastic low sounds *Maniacs* is a great fusion of dubstep sounds and classic dub style. *Insolence* is on the contrary a darkest and aggressive track that combines harsh and hypnotic sounds with a paranoid and insolent melody. Their dj set is powerful and forceful, with the three producers/dj who alternate their presence at the console.

MILANESE (Warp, Planet Mu) _ live

The new star of the London underground club has an Italian name. It's called Milanese and has linked his fame to two of the most respected labels of the world scene: Warp Records and Planet Mu. Always poised between old school and Bristol vocalism, his constantly changing sound seems to summarize the best of British dance in recent years, from grime to electro-dub, and it's full of low sounds and wild rhythms.

After brief appearances on Warp and Arcola, above all it's important his large debut work: *Extend*. The sound of Milanese, from a solid dub-step base builds, above a world of captured and sampled voices and electronic sounds always dark, subtle digital solutions and dramatic and metropolitan passages.

NEIL LANDSTRUMM (Tresor, Planet Mu) _ mixed media live

Recognized as one of the pioneers of the English electronic music, Neil Landstrumm has realized, starting from 1994, records and projects for some of the most important international labels. Starting from Peacefrog and then moving to the Berlin Tresor Records his bass-game have finally come to the most important electronic label in England: Planet Mu. To explain his musical research we could talk about experimental low frequencies dancehall. After several years spent in New York, Neil makes commutes between the native Edinburgh, where he manages the label Scandinavia, and London. With his sets he has toured the world several times, carrying around his pioneering research in the field of techno recently turned to the languages of dubstep but always with a strong "rave" attitude. Worldwide acclaimed for the album *Restaurant of Assassins* Landstrumm represents the most credible witness to a confluence of styles that merges the Great Northern Raves of the Happy Mondays with the Bass'N'Bleep scene of Yorkshire and the slow and instinctive beat of electronic dub. It is live hardware electronics at its best.

SELFISH _ live visuals

Giovanni Antignano is a visual designer and a video artist. Over the years he has taken part in many international events (MAF05 Bangkok, Israeli Digital Lab, West Coast Nu Music Electronic Art, Biennial of Electronic Art Perth). He has collaborated and collaborates with artists like Fenin, Marco Parente, Lorenzo Brusci, Dj Shantel, Don Pasta, Ether, Retina.it, Marco Messina. He is founder of the videolabel Zerofeedback and since 2006 he is art director of vjcentral.it, Italian portal of the vjing world.