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Album Review: Punk Cathedral by The Kiss That Took A Trip

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by



When it comes to **music**, I tend to like beats and melodies that put a spring in my step and a smile on my face. That's not to say I dislike anything mellow, quiet, or dramatic. I'd like to think that I can appreciate all kinds of music. So, when *Punk Cathedral* by **The Kiss That Took A Trip**, a one-man band formed by **M.D. Trello** back in 2006, was submitted to *ARTpublika Magazine* for review, I wanted to approach it with an open mind. Though the band's latest album (released on June 6th) is interesting, it's also not something I would have ever discovered for myself.

It's hard to say exactly what kind of album *Punk Cathedral* is. Trello is vehemently against categorizing it as **electronic music**, even though it's built "for the most part, using computers and synthetic sounds." I suppose ambient post-rock is one way to describe it, and trippy and unpredictable would be another. "Ambient Punk," for

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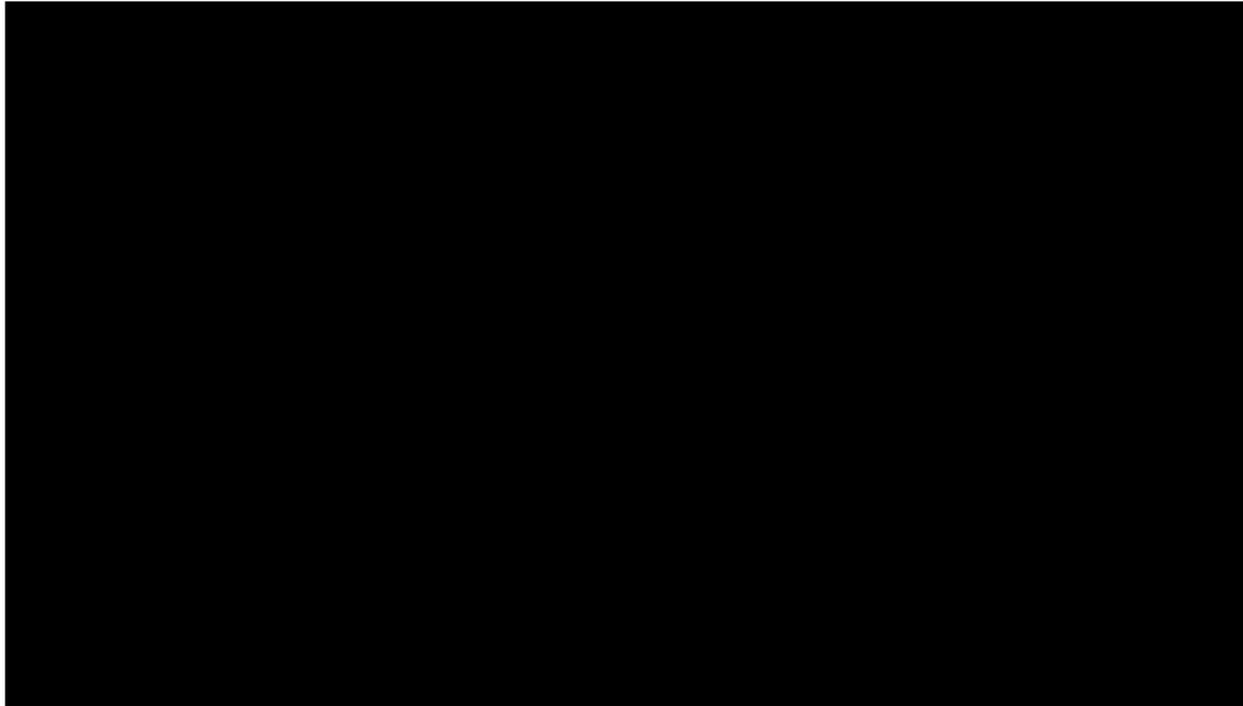


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example, starts off with a clip of **Rodney King** speaking. His voice is broken and full of apprehensive concern as he pleads with the public to “stop making it horrible for older people and the kids.” Immediately, I am invested in the track, but also worried that it could be something very sad or off-putting. But, it’s not.



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He stops speaking after only a few seconds; **percussion** over progressive meditation music comes in shortly thereafter. It's followed by guitar embellishments that gently fade and in out, which normalizes the overall effect, making it less alarming and a lot more inviting. Then, pleasant melodies “fill” the “ambiance” with harmonies. It gets edgier towards the end, but never crosses into aggressive territory. And, just as I give up on hearing any vocals, a voice (Trello's ?) comes through – for just a little while. Unexpected moments like this seem to happen on a lot of tracks.

But there are other kinds of songs as well. “Dry Swallowed Pill” is one of my favorites because **the music** does not have any kind of prelude or **sound effects**, like the bells on “Stabbing Porcelain.” It’s mellow very reminiscent of **Magnetic Fields** in vocal style, and perhaps musically as well. It’s also a lot more lyrical than many of the others. Similarly, “Crapola” sounds like it could be a **Simon and Garfunkel** song with a slight punk twist. It’s calm, melodic, and has less electronic-sounding elements than other tracks, which is a good way to create variation overall.



As the 14-track album progresses, Trello’s style, though consistent, seems to be exploring its own range. He believes: “**The band** has no other aim but to build a consistent and lasting **music catalog** that can speak to people fed up with quick

consumption music and looking for high replay value and a more immersive and personal experience." And, in the end, I have to agree that that's exactly what *Punk Cathedral* is. Learn more about **The Kiss That Took A Trip** [here](#) and **stream the album** in full [here](#).

*Note * Album provided for objective review by our partners.*

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