
MANON MEURT

MMXVIII

Tracklist:

1. Circle
2. We Are
3. Figure It Out
4. An Excuse To Hurt
5. Neon
6. LXXVIII
7. Lighthouse
8. Song of The Sea

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MMXVIII

After thorough preparation, Manon Meurt went into the studio to record in June, with Jan P. Muchow as producer. Most of the songs were done at Faust Records in Prague under the watchful eye of Derek Saxenmeyer, who has experience with Mark Brasel and at studios in Poland and Israel, working on discs by Aneta Langerova, Jana Koubkova, Killing Joke, and others. Katerina Elznicova's vocals were added later at Muchow's Between The Stars studio. Then Derek and Jan did the final mix, which was then mastered Matous Godik at the ZKA4T studio. The band say they're perfectionists in many ways, and have listened to almost every shoegaze album ever released.

When it comes to the Czech scene, Manon Meurt takes its greatest inspiration from the original line-up of The Ecstasy Of Saint Theresa, especially the very old *Fluidtrance Centauri* EP. This is material from the legendary John Peel Session, so there is a certain symbolics here or, one might say, a completion of the circle, since Jan Muchow took worked on *MMXVIII*, that band's second album. Katerina Elznicova (guitar), Vojtech Pejsa (guitar), Simona Kucharova (base guitar), and Jiri Bendl (drums) got together six years ago during the Coombal festival near Rakovnik. Originally, Katerina was supposed to perform solo with her guitar but she wanted to have a band. A year later came the watershed moment, when the band played warm up for My Bloody Valentine at their Prague concert in Divadlo Archa on June 11, 2013 as they were putting together their nameless six-song debut. Finally released in 2014, it was a limited vinyl edition and included compositions such as To Forget and In These Eyes that have defined the band's creative signature. With Simona Kucharova now replaced by David Tichy, Manon Muert has given a number of concerts, gained new experience, and expanded its musical scope.

On the one hand, they remain an otherworldly collective closely bound to shoegaze, but they have also taken a fresh direction towards post-rock and noise. This stylistically describes *We Are*, part of the band's existing repertoire, as well as *Figure It Out* and *Neon*, the latter being one of the runners-up for the first single. The opening song, *Circle*, testifies to Katerina Elznicova's vocal maturity: her ethereal voice is an outstanding feature of the performance and she also penned very personal lyrics for songs included in *MMXVIII*. *Lighthouse* is a pensive song whose piano sections will surprise you, and the last track, *Song Of The Sea*, is a dark lullaby bound to become a stable part of Manon Muert's playlist. The single *Figure It Out* is being released September 27 to all digital platforms, including streaming services. *MMXVIII* will be available on LP, CD, and digital download the second Friday in October. It will be a remarkable event in the Czech music world - the impatiently awaited successor to Manon Muert's nameless debut is finally here.

These quickly rising shoegaze stars have played alongside The Raveonettes, LSD and the Search for God and My Bloody Valentine. Supporting My Bloody Valentine in Prague in 2013 was actually one of their first concerts and since then the band has toured several times all over Europe, from Ukraine to the UK or from Denmark to Croatia. They played festivals in Czech and Slovak Republic like Colours of Ostrava, Pohoda Festival, United Islands of Prague, Waves Bratislava, Beseda u bigbítu, as well as festivals abroad like Banát in Romania, Nürnberg.Pop and Brückenfestival in Germany, Pre-Monte Fest in Croatia. They have also performed at showcase festivals Eurosonic Noorderslag, Reeperbahn Festival, Waves Vienna and MENT Ljubljana.

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