

Lackluster

| Biography



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Describing the sound of Esa Ruoho's music is a task full of adjectives, but it never comes to mind to call any of it lackluster - the name, that this talented, young Finnish electronic music artist has chosen for himself.

At the same time challenging and rewarding, Lackluster's music is full of texture and organic quality that many electronic artists seem to have lost in the pre-millennium tension urge to slice and divide sound. Melodic sounds are woven in layers; rhythm grows and reacts in harmony instead of pretentious chaos. Lackluster is the sound of modern architecture colliding with the intricate beauty of nature.

Hailing from the gray reality of the nation's capital Helsinki, Esa Ruoho is more familiar with concrete buildings and suburban life, than the vast forests, numerous lakes and icy cold snow that Finland is known of.

Starting with a meager set-up of a computer, soundcard and simple sequencing software, Ruoho started innocently enough, fooling around with samples and trying to piece together anything resembling a proper track. With no musical education and no experience whatsoever from playing instruments the road wasn't easy, yet at the same time there were no academic boundaries. Driven by the need to learn and develop, Esa Ruoho composed over 300 original tracks over the period of just five years.

Even though he had been excessively spreading his music over various electronic channels such as bulletin board systems and internet, it was only after five years of practicing half in public and half privately, that Esa Ruoho felt like sorting the best of his work and pressing them on CDs. Named after the used media, CDR#1 and CDR#2 were both pressed in limited numbers and sold out immediately thanks to Lackluster's already impressive underground fame. Both CDs are still in request and doing rounds in mp3 format among the fans.

Lackluster's first real album and recording contract was conceived through Clair Poulton's DeFocus-label. Container received excellent feedback, both from the press and the electronic music aficionados. Container was followed by Wrapping, the last album for Lackluster on DeFocus. Both albums were still more or less compilations of slightly older material. Recording under his birth name, Esa Ruoho, also released a dark and beautiful ambient concept album for Belgian label U-Cover.

While many fans and reviewers who follow the IDM (intelligent dance music) scene have a tendency for blaming artists for copying others, it says a lot that Lackluster's uniquely melancholic and tender sound has never gained any similar accusations.

Currently Lackluster is promoting his new album, Showcase, which is another step forward in his career. Coming out on US-based label, Merck, Showcase delivers yet another delicate compilation of Lackluster's trademark sound combined with a slightly tighter and harder production. In addition to the new album, Esa Ruoho is doing remixes for various labels and artists, composing music for a modern dance piece as well as throwing gigs all around the globe.

For booking and further enquiries
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Check also - www.lackluster.org

