

collide

two headed monster

Imagine if you will the most sensuous, erotic, hypnotic, twisted and surreal trip into ecstasy you've ever experienced. Now put those feelings to music. Or better yet, slap on some headphones and explore the brilliantly composed world within COLLIDE's fourth full-length release, Two Headed Monster, independently released last month on their own label, Noiseplus Music.

The album's title no doubt reflects on the two masterminds that are COLLIDE, kaRIN (lyrics and vocals) and Statik (credited as noise on the liner notes). Formed in Los Angeles in 1995, the essence of COLLIDE is the coming together of two opposing entities to form a symbiotic whole. Through both the inspiration and the inspired, this dynamic duo has driven COLLIDE to the top of the darkwave/industrial genre. Although when it comes to genres, COLLIDE creates an aural experience that truly manages to defy categorization. Their music is made at the point where cool precision, passion and mechanical frenzy intersect. They synthesize elements of gothic, industrial, edgy electronica, darkwave, ethereal pop, modern rock and trip-hop into a style that is uniquely theirs; soothing yet powerful, smooth yet dangerous.

The experience of their continued collaborations together has evolved into a masterpiece of haunting dreamscapes found within their latest offering. The new album, 2HM, is the culmination of three years of activity, during which kaRIN and Statik took time out to collaborate on a side project with Dean Garcia of Curve (under the name The Secret Meeting, which released a full-

length album called Ultrashiver, met with overwhelming critical success).

The result of 2HM showcases the mastery of kaRIN's otherworldly and ethereal vocals, perfectly accompanied by Statik's hypnotically chilling and powerful soundtracks. Vocalist kaRIN states: "Two Headed Monster deals with the duality and balance of life from an alien point of view. Sometimes I feel like an alien from another planet. Although every emotion comes from inside of me, I often feel like I look at life from the outside. I never have followed the path that most people take, doing what they think they are supposed to be doing. Sometimes that alienates me quite a bit but mostly I am comfortable with it. We are not the traditional type of musicians. We don't really play music; we try to create soundscapes—layers of depth and emotion that dig into different levels of the psyche. Statik and I are complete clashing opposites that try to meet at the same place, combining the female and masculine energies, the cognitive and the subliminal, the strength and the mystery."

Statik insists: "It's still important to me not to remake the same songs that we have made before and not to tread on anyone else's path. I suppose I have always been driven to make music that I want to hear. If I am working for other people, I just try to help bring their songs to another level while adding my own sound. With COLLIDE, it seems more difficult because we make all the decisions. There's a whole canvas to paint and before a song is finished, the picture can change a dozen times."

"Art was always my escape in life," adds kaRIN. "It was the one thing that was safe because I was in control and it was the way to ultimately release my deepest emotions. In music, I feel truly blessed to be allowed this form of expression and to be able to reach out to other people's emotions as well as my own innermost levels. It allows me to speak directly to the core and unleash feelings from the most primal to the most cerebral and in between."

While the core of their compositions has been fueled almost exclusively by kaRIN and Statik in the studio, 2HM features Danny Carey of Tool's thunderous drums on four tracks and Dean Garcia from Curve who lends his bass to one of the songs. Elsewhere, the members of the COLLIDE live band (Rogerio Silva, Kai Kurosawa, Scott Landes and Chaz Pease) contribute distorted six-string, bass guitar and additional percussion.

COLLIDE's progressive success has not

altered the original message behind their music. Few writers can make disillusionment sound as convincing (or as sultry) as kaRIN does. The tracks on 2HM deliver a variety of rolling emotions ranging from psychedelic slices of industrial pop to the sharply-written compositions featuring crunchy guitars, gritty electronic loops and crashing drums all coming together in an orgasmic crescendo.

If you're looking for an exotic and passionate ride down the ecstasy highway (without the drawbacks of MDMA), I highly suggest you give COLLIDE a spin on your player. Bring a date along for the ride while you're at it. The amorous side-effects of COLLIDE's music have been very undeniably powerful in my personal experience. You can thank me later.

For more info on COLLIDE, visit: www.COLLIDE.net or www.myspace.com/COLLIDE.

For a full catalog of COLLIDE's recordings and merchandise visit www.noiseplusmusic.com/store.

