

Collide



Like the Hunted...

Organical Mechanical

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. They are Collide: a Los Angeles duo with a knack for intriguing arrangements and compelling performances. Principals Statik and kaRIN, have over their decade together written some of the catchiest songs that will ever haunt you to distraction.

Since forming Collide in 1995, the group has released five albums of top-drawer electronica, experimental compositions, and some astonishing reworkings of pop and rock standards. Their last album – the generous Vortex – was a double-CD consisting of new material, updated versions of old favorites, and a full disc set of remixes done by some of the hottest producers in techno and alternative rock. The duo's labors have won them a stable of admirers, and have led to collaborations with artists such as Tool, Nine Inch Nails, and Skinny Puppy. They've done it by constantly kicking at the boundaries of the form- their name refers to the ceaseless collision of apparent influences on their music.

Although Collide has won thousands of appreciators, and established a reputation for recording excellence, they'd never performed their music in concert until 2004. Like many electronic acts, Collide was a studio entity. They'd used their machinery, their voices, and their mixing board to generate a sound that's best described as extra-personal: suggestive not of a band playing in the back of a room, but of a dream playing in the back of your head. Transposing an experience this hallucinatory to the stage felt daunting to Statik and kaRIN. Could a group so dependent on electronics for their ferocity – even one this accomplished – manage to replicate the passion, the menace, and the magic of their music live?

The DVD you're now holding is proof that they can. Like The Hunted, released on the groups' own Noiseplus Music imprint, is documentation of the concert tour that brought Collide's dreams alive. Expanded to a six-piece, the live iteration of the electronica powerhouse brings new dimensions to familiar songs. Guitarists Scott Landes and Rogerio Silva weave alternately processed and raw riffs around Kai Kurosawa's percussive bass and Chaz Pease's thunderous drumming. Statik stands omnipresent behind his electronics, as the virtual sound controller. The band looks and sounds terrific: the five instrumentalists attack their instruments with authority, and kaRIN leads the band with sultry charisma. They're drilled, empathetic, responsive to the audience and to each other, and tough to tear your eyes away from. It's hard to believe that the version of Collide captured on Like The Hunted had only played eight shows before the one shown here.

Shot by veteran video director Kevin McVey, the concert footage in Like The Hunted is accompanied by full, rich digitally recorded sound. The band contributes supercharged, vibrant, edgy versions of songs heretofore known only in their studio-manicured versions: "Euphoria", "Somewhere", and "White Rabbit", the wild (but appropriate) cover, first heard on Chasing The Ghost. Gorgeous and ethereal moments on some of the more crystalline Collide ballads take on a particular resonance because of the concert setting: Los Angeles's breathtaking landmark El Rey theatre. kaRIN's voice curls up to the rafters like smoke, and streams out effortlessly over the crowd like laser light.

There's more to Like The Hunted than concert footage. Collide has always been an extremely adventurous video act – and they've included their trippy clips on this DVD. All of them are exciting and intriguing, but the mind-blowing "Son Of A Preacher Man" clip is a must-see. As Statik and kaRIN retrofit the Dusty Springfield classic by throwing a twisted wrench into it, McVey trains his camera upon a lawn battle between some sinister strawberries beating up cowboys, cheerleaders, stuffed pigs and plenty of other madness(!). "Euphoria" also directed by McVey, creates an alternate reality, which is contrasted by a stark white spinning stage, fire, rain, and spacemen. Also included is a video by newcomer Gabriel McIntyre, with his contemporary take on "Razor Sharp" where snap shots and video glow and come to life pulsating with sleek precision.

The photo scrapbook captures both the live visuals as well as a collection of studio photos. Two acoustic performances of well-known Collide tracks reveal the sturdy construction that underpins even their most elaborate electronic songs. Finally, Like The Hunted contains a lengthy explanatory interview entitled "The Modification" with the bandmembers that begins like a documentary, but ultimately gives insight and reveals the tight dynamic between the principals kaRIN and Statik.

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