

Janis Elko

www.elko-music.com

“In a world full of casted superstars and people who fall head-over-heels into the spotlight of the pop world, an artist like Janis Elko is a pleasant exception.”

Janis admits to her heroes... to The Police, to Joni Mitchell, to Mark Eitzel... but there is also a good amount of indie spirit at play; the desire to experiment on songs that are above all quietly intense and exciting, with lyrics and stories that suspensefully connect fiction with reality.

This is the soft and delicate singer/songwriter pop of the American musician, who lays her soft voice gently over the music as she tells her stories. Stories from everyday life, but also about the dramas and the beautiful moments of love. Stories that want to be told. A lost umbrella becomes the theme for a plot that centers around the wish to be like a storm.

But first, we should go back to the year 2000, when Janis came to Frankfurt (and Germany at all) for the first time, to make a guest appearance on “Hausboot Venus”. The small success of that first show sparked the beginning of new friendships and contacts, and no later than in 2001 did Janis decide to move to Frankfurt, cat in tow, to become one with the apple wine. A decision that was not without consequences...

Primarily working as a freelance graphic designer, music seemed to be secondary. In December 2002 it finally came down to recording the song “Not the Most Graceful” at the recording studio Das Modular (Hattersheim, Germany). Janis had come back from New Jersey with a drums-and-vocals-only version of the song, and only the bass and guitar were left to fill in the gaps...

More than a year has passed and after various recording sessions in different studios, a first Demo EP with five songs was released. A must hear!

Record Collection

Janis: when I was eleven I started playing piano. The music I was listening to at that time came from artists like The Police, Men At Work and then much later Joni Mitchell. My favorite record from her is most definitely “Hejira”, I must have listened to it at least five times a day for a year or so. Lately I’ve been listening a lot to Bright Eyes.

Feedback

Janis: I can recall very well receiving an email from someone who once bought my record and was really inspired by the music. In the mail she wrote that she was a painter, and that my music was great to paint pictures to, that the words drum up lots of images. to this day i haven’t received a nicer email than that. where it gives you the wonderful feeling that you’ve done something right.

Neighbors

Janis: I never had any problems with the neighbors, since i’m already playing so quietly that my cat falls asleep to it. I can’t imagine ever getting aggravation from playing too loud.

Mission

Janis: my songs are a way for me to tell stories. In these stories I find truth, the way I see it. In particular they are situations in life that you don’t find right, or things that are right, but no one takes notice of it -- these are the things I want to hold onto. A person can paint a picture or keep a weblog or do any number of things to tell their stories. I’ve found my form in music; the combination of music and words.

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