

miRthkon

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*"It's noisy, it's heavy, it's weird, and it's awesome. Seriously, WOW."
-JimBob Hickvile*

*"Melodic, heavy and ever so complex, miRthkon's music is a densely layered and extremely rich body of work that is constantly shifting like the ground below it is giving way."
-experimusic.com*

miRthkon: Oakland, California's latest entry into a rich tradition of anti-tradition, is fully prepared to effectively blow your mind with their highly idiosyncratic brand of sonic blasphemy! Their music features an inimitable blend of quirky prog rock, avant-garde jazz, contemporary classical abstraction, thrash metal, and an uncanny pop accessibility that defies categorization.



In September of 2006 miRthkon independently released its debut recording, a 4-song EP entitled 'The Illusion of Joy' produced by band founder Wally Scharold and mixed by legendary Oakland art-rock engineer Dan Rathbun of Sleepytime Gorilla Museum. 'The Illusion of Joy' received extensive critical praise and caught the ears of the recently-formed Italian Avant-Prog label AltrOck Productions, home of avant-chamber-proggers Yugen. miRthkon is pleased to announce that AltrOck Productions will be releasing their first full-length CD 'VEHICLE' in May 2009!

Coinciding with their September 2006 release, miRthkon emerged from the shed to present their unique live show to enthusiastic audiences throughout the greater Bay Area and southern California. They have shared the stage with the likes of Flying Luttenbachers founder Weasel Walter, Upsilon Acrux, The Fuxedos, Juan Prophet Organization, Kids and Hearts, Research & Development, Brian Kenney Fresno, The Molecules, Inner Ear Brigade, Invincible Czars, Three Piece Combo, Hour of the Shipwreck, Goat Receiver, Darling Freakhead, Stolen Babies' Dominique Persi, Iran's 127, Mute Socialite, and many others.

Existing solely in rough form on scratched-up CD-R's and hard-drives for nearly a decade, miRthkon occasionally emerged as a live ensemble via one-off bands between 1997 and 2003 though it otherwise lay dormant as an imaginary band touring the mid of its founder, composer/guitarist/vocalist Wally Scharold. It wasn't until the fortuitous meeting with co-founder of the current lineup, composer/guitarist Rob Pumpelly, that things began to take shape and gain momentum.

In the early months of 2005 the core lineup was brought together for the first time, embarking on a nearly 2 year rehearsal phase before beginning an extensive gigging campaign throughout the greater Bay Area. Bassist, Nat Hawkes, drummer Dickie Ogden, and multi-reedist Carolyn Walter joined Schar and Pumpelly to make up the core of the group. Over 2 years 5 different multi-reedists filled out the horn section until the timely arrival of one Jamison Smeltz, multi-faceted saxoholic extraordinaire. In late 2007 miRthkon parted ways with drummer Dickie Ogden and the miRthkon family welcomed Matthew Guggemos, one of it's original members from the old days, back to the drum throne thus finalizing the current lineup.

In 2008, Scharold began an extensive conceptual collaboration with composer/writer/video artist Jarred McAdams. The two have created an elaborate video projection program to accompany live performances. In addition to that, Scharold and McAdams have spent several years crafting an elaborate mythology upon which the entire conceptual framework of miRthkon's body of work is built. The fruits of this collaboration will be evident in the conceptual grout filling in the cracks of the upcoming CD 'VEHICLE', to be released May 26th 2009.

miRthkon is:

Wally Scharold - guitars, vocals, composition, sound design, conceptual design, text, video, producer

Rob Pumpelly - guitars, composition

Nat Hawkes - bass guitar, vocals

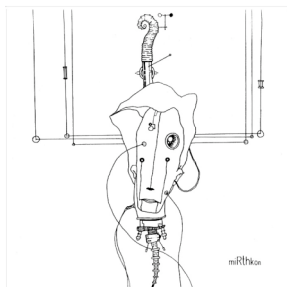
Carolyn Walter - piccolo, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone

Jamison Smeltz - alto saxophone, baritone saxophone, vocals

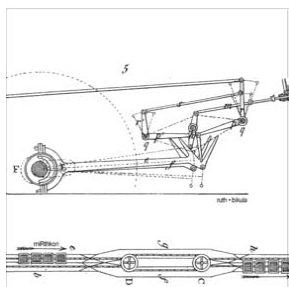
Matt Guggemos - drums and percussion

Jarred McAdams - video, text, conceptual collaborator

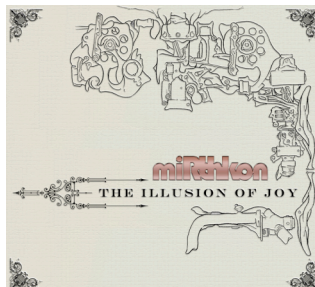
miRthkon Selected Discography



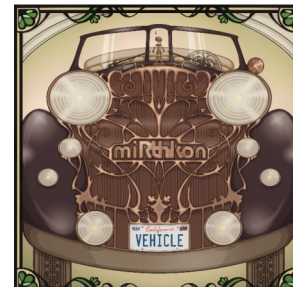
miRthkon (*self-titled*)
(1999) CD indie



ruth•bikula
(2001) Double CD indie



The Illusion of Joy
(2006) CD EP Wayside



VEHICLE
(2009) CD AltrOck

Recent performance history:

June 20, 2009	Backspace	Portland, OR
June 19, 2009	Sam Bond's	Eugene, OR
June 18, 2009	Café Coda	Chico, CA
June 6, 2009	Black Box Studios	San Diego, CA
June 5, 2009	Knitting Factory	Hollywood, CA
May 30, 2009	Starry Plough	Berkeley, CA
May 23, 2009	Hotel Utah	San Francisco, CA
August 8, 2008	Uptown Nightclub	Oakland, CA
July 17, 2008	Starry Plough	Berkeley, CA
June 18, 2008	Elbo Room	San Francisco, CA
May 2, 2008	Ashby Stage	Berkeley, CA
April 5, 2008	Starry Plough	Berkeley, CA
March 11, 2008	ABC Co ArtSpace	Oakland, CA
December 8, 2007	Zapp's	Fresno, CA
December 7, 2007	Knitting Factory	Hollywood, CA
December 6, 2007	Dr. Scolari's Office	San Diego, CA
November 20, 2007	Hemlock Tavern	San Francisco, CA
November 16, 2007	Starry Plough	Berkeley, CA
November 15, 2007	The Attic	Santa Cruz, CA
November 14, 2007	The Fishtank	Oakland, CA
October 28, 2007	KPFA 94.1 Live On The Air	Berkeley, CA
September 30, 2007	Stork Club	Oakland, CA
June 30, 2007	Starry Plough	Berkeley, CA
June 22, 2007	Stork Club	Oakland, CA
May 11, 2007	Uptown Nightclub	Oakland, CA
May 2, 2007	Stork Club	Oakland, CA
April 22, 2007	Fishtank	Oakland, CA
March 23, 2007	Starry Plough	Berkeley, CA
February 8, 2007	Hotel Utah	San Francisco, CA
January 27, 2007	Hemlock Tavern	San Francisco, CA
December 2, 2006	Starry Plough	Berkeley, CA
November 18, 2006	21 Grand	Oakland, CA
October 26, 2006	Uptown Nightclub	Oakland, CA
October 20, 2006	21 Grand	Oakland, CA
September 14, 2006	Stork Club	Oakland, CA
October 20, 2005	Starry Plough	Berkeley, CA