

2raumwohnung band biography (English version)

From the soundtrack of the millennium to the musical interplay of the album „Nacht und Tag“. For two decades 2raumwohnung have been enriching German pop music with that rare combination only known from chanson or bossa nova: lightness and melancholy.

A fusion that both led to studio experiments and top ten hits. Inga Humpe and Tommi Eckart are - in their own way - able to play at both levels. More than a million sold records since 2001 speak for themselves. A decent, countable success that has been accompanied by three gold records, diverse awards and prizes. This solid base allowed them the artistic freedom that led to their seven top ten studio albums - results of their autonomy.

Thereby they sometimes seem like the shadowy beings turning up in the video of their single „Somebody Lonely And Me“: They disappear in the light, just to reappear in the half dark right afterwards. Sometimes they are clear and present, sometimes they dissolve in hazy outlines. Soft flowing sounds meet precise beats. Humpe's vocals seem to float on the notes. Snapshots of life come to filigree songs.

Punk, New Wave and later the energy of techno influenced them. With Neonbabies and DÖF, Inga Humpe melodized the spirit of the eighties. Tommi Eckart worked with DJ Hell or Andreas Dorau. Around the year 2000 they get together, first as a studio project. 2raumwohnung is the working title of a constellation more and more transforming into a firm band. But of course the term „band“ in this case is not about guitar, bass, drums and vocals like in rock music. If at all, 2raumwohnung stand in the tradition of British pop duo like Soft Cell, Yazoo, Eurythmics or Pet Shop Boys. Musical dreams of the future, in which digital and emotional components dance with each other: The principle of the band stays minimal and compact.

In the beginning, 2raumwohnung created a furor with classical singles. German language in pop is getting a new progressive address. „Wir trafen uns in einem Garten“ and „Nimm mich mit - Das Abenteuer Liebe usw.“ are lucid songs reflecting the attitude of the millennium. Not only in Berlin. They strike a chord, and the unexpected success gives wings to them. In summer 2001 The debut album „Kommt Zusammen“ strengthens the position between electronic and singer songwriter guitars. Soon 2raumwohnung are wanted to construe the pop culture of their time in interviews. In the 2002 remix version of the album they emphasize their closeness to the club underground scene. The following release „In Wirklich“ amplifies this open, manifold inspired mix that has been rewarded with the German Dance Award in 2003.

While the single „Ich und Elaine“ is becoming a hymn of the 2000s, 2raumwohnung move to long haul with their mix of analogue warmth and digital precision. Still experimenting with different formats, they apply themselves to the harder, more functional beats as a DJ Team or are being accompanied by a whole band line up on stage.

The summer mix project „Melancholisch Schön“ (2005) in which 2raumwohnung wallow in south American longing, and the chart success album „36 Grad“ (2007) signify the ongoing extension of the musical spectrum from which they form their distinctive songs. An artistic level offering enough freedom to enter new ground with each disc - either seizing the retro futurism of the seventies („Der letzte Abend auf der Welt“ on the album „Lasso“ (2009)) or using the flair of the american westcoast as a kind of „field recording“ for producing the album „Achtung, Fertig“ (2013). Californication, made in Berlin. Their close attachment to the international DJ scene has been present during all these years. Numerous mix cooperation like with Paul van Dyk („36 Grad“, 2007), Paul Kalkbrenner, Solomun (both „Wir Werden Sehen“, 2011/12) or Westbam („Bei Dir Ich Schön“, 2013) prove this.

The variations of their double album „Nacht und Tag“ (2017), on which 2raumwohnung resolve each song twice, continues his biography of steady change. On their first double album they interpret ten songs both in a (dark) club and a (light) day version. Produced in the home Brunnen International Studios, German and English lyrics take turns - another novum in their work. One more impressive evidence of 2raumwohnung's skill to intertwine guitar pop and modern electronics seamlessly. And once more, remixes (lately by DJ Koze, Ricardo Villalobos and Chi Thanh for the first single „Somebody lonely And Me“) witness the multipotential of their compositions. That by now they seem to have reached the consistency of a classical rock band rather amuses Inga and Tommi. But why not? Pop music can be a life's work as well!