

continuing a somewhat stuttering regular feature on local limerick bands, ~22~ are the next to succumb to the treatment. about to set off an an irish tour, there won't be a better time to take a look at the band with the strangest aliases in the business & who are building a reputation for both their recorded work and their 'different' live show.

LEG counts them down....

~22~ like to describe themselves as 'detached' from all of the bands in the Limerick scene, easily differentiated by their use of Midi sequencers, sampler effects, digital guitars and a style of music which reflects no set influence. Their stage shows are full of toys, comics, home-made costumes and mannequin heads spouting smoke. They have played just about every venue in Limerick including the Savoy complex, The High Stool, Dolan's Warehouse and The Boathouse. Three of their gigs were shut down due to uncontrollably lewd or violent performances this year, including a throwing fight between the crowd and ~22~ during a gig in Costelos Tavern where the power was turned off.

As well as playing gigs with 'Hammel On Trial', 'Raging Speedhorn', 'Ex-Girl', 'Guappo' and many others, ~22~ are also touring Ireland from the 28th of July to the 15th of August in Belfast, Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick. They will also be promoting their CD 'Komrid Mjuzik' which sold 400 copies in Limerick and Cork. The CD echoes the band's love for contrast, where the one song is a screeching mess of Midi drums and propaganda, the next song is an instrumental mixture of computer game music and Eddie Marony quotes.

Beginning as a trio of school boys, Martin Keary (aka RAW-2), Benny Armstrong (aka 16 subliminal Labradors) and Donogh O'Carrol (aka Bald-15) were interested in creating music with a range of different instruments, experimental equipment and unlinked patterns. All of the earlier ideas were put forward by Martin who primarily writes music on his computer using a midi sequencer. The main problem was; how to convert the sometimes depressingly complicated music that had been created on Martin's computer into real life.

After recording a demo tape known as 'The Abuse of Art' on Donogh's four track, ~22~ invested in a keyboard that would play the drums and background midi while the three members played guitar. After a few shows of being told to get a drummer, they began to

22's tour dates

july 28 - galway - o'malleys (new noise)
july 31 - cork - fred zeplins (dog on stilts)
august 01 - dublin - gz club (kidz)
august 09 - limerick boatclub - amc (tbc)
august 15 - belfast - (tbc)

+ what's in a number?

~22~ | limerick boat club | aug 09

enjoy the limitless possibilities their sound could attain. Barry Brien (7=5) Joined the band two years later when Donogh O'Carrol had called it a day and added another musical quality to ~22~ while making web pages and linking up with bands in Cork.

The line up is now, RAW-2 (vocals, guitar, keyboard, digital guitar), 16 subliminal Labradors (vocals, bass) and 7=5 (Lead guitar, keyboards, digital guitar). The main point of the band is to create music without an influence of style disrupting it. Some of the songs are short, direct and are created on impulse, containing just one or two parts. The music describes emotions that the members think are interesting, and sometimes have nonsensical names like 'Wait-panorama' due to the fact that the creating emotion was nonchalant at the time of writing. ~22~ have no philosophy, underlying hints or set style of music, some of their gigs are catastrophes and some of them are hilarious, but the whole point is to entertain and to confuse.

+ somewhere = the belltable

Photography is one of the most accesible art forms, and probably the most familiar to a lay audience. It is also an art form with huge potential for experimentation and creativity. On August 08, the Belltable Arts Centre welcomes one of Ireland's most innovative photgraphers.

Michael Durand's work is fascinating. In his latest exhibition, he takes the audience on a journey. In an otherwise darkened gallery space, the audience are invited to make a physical journey around the gallery, guided by the light boxes that come on and off in sequence to show the way.

Contained in each light box are images that Michael has taken while in transit, from the windows of cars, buses, boats and planes. Lacking defining landmarks, these images reveal no clues to their locations. As such, they could be stretches of sky, road and water from almost anywhere. In this sense, they exist as postcards of "nowhere".

Michael describes the images as "peripheral spaces, which separate our beginnings and our final destination and become the representation of the middle. They are a metaphor of our daily existence"

The route taken around the gallery is an ongoing circle that never 'arrives' at a destination, neither does it have a single point of departure as the circuit effectively continues unbroken. In effect, the journey is never completed in the conventional sense, as the audience walks around images of 'nowhere', searching for an illusive 'somewhere'.

The exhibition opens on Thursday, August 08, and runs until September 05. More info is available from the Belltable at 061-211256.