

Attached you find the original Interview before the translation from English to German between Ingo for Soundmagnet.eu and *Esteban Girón* for Toundra.

First of all, congratulations for completing and releasing Hex! I guess the production has been very difficult with all these pandemic restrictions?

First of all, thanks for this interview! Really appreciated! And thanks for your kind words about "Hex". I don't think that this pandemic situation made the production process more difficult. We had to change our working system but just before the COVID19 times. Two of us moved to the north coast of Spain just before this situation so we knew that home working times were going to start. These are hard times for all the agents of all the culture industry and specially for the musicians. We hope this situation will end pretty soon.

With El Odio it includes an important statement against hatred and division of society. Were the pandemic consequences the initial point for this topic?

During all those months that I was at home because of the lockout I realized that it was the first time of my life that I had enough time to read, to think, to watch fiction on TV. Modern life makes us to live with this crazy rhythm, with no time for stop thinking. Pandemic situation was not the initial point but the lockout was a good point to stop thinking.

Apart from the difficulties of the pandemic situation, how was the working progress on the album? Do you remember any special moments when writing and recording Hex?

The process was almost a year writing music. Writing music home alone and then sharing between us all those ideas in our rehearsing room. It was great but it was hard. Once you have a 15 years career and 7 albums, writing music is harder and harder because you have a responsibility bigger and bigger with every album. If I have to choose a special moment I would choose the first time we were together rehearsing after a lot of months during we could not go. That was a very special one.

I think Hex is clearly recognisable as a Toundra album. Did you musically try different approaches on it?

We always try different approaches and I think that every Toundra album is a different one but we have our own sound and specific characteristics. It's a good think to have your own print but trying to do something special in every step.

Could you explain what Hex means in this context?

It's just "six" in greek.

Watt sounds in parts kind of crimsonesque. Are there any new influences on Hex you are aware of?

King Crimson is the favorite band of David, our guitarist. He always wanted to use a saxo in a Toundra song and finally we did it on this album.

Could you explain the artwork of Hex and in which way does it connect to the albums' concept?

Its a picture by Manu Brabo, Pulitzer Price and a war photojournalist. A great friend of us. We wanted to use this photo showing a very important part of this modern life: the industry and how during the Industrial Revolution the human being started to be divided and how during that moment of History the Working Class Movement appeared. That's why we have a song called "Watt" too.

Will you play concerts in the near future? And do you plan something special for the gigs?

We hope so! We'll be touring Europe in June. We can't wait to go on tour across Europe after 2 or 3 tours cancelled. We love to visit places like Austria.

As I remember, you weren't able to perform *Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligary* as well. Do you think a cineastic multimedia experience would work for Hex too?

Not at all. "Hex" it's a "normal Toundra album", which means that is a rock and roll one. It's part of our career as I, II, III, IV and Vortex. On the other hand we have our side project albums as the one we did under the name *ox Exquiria* and *Das Cabinet...* We love playing rock and roll but after some years we always need to do something different. Hex is an album to be played loud in a warm venue.

What are your next plans? Back to the studio?

It's 12 days since this album was released! Let me enjoy it please! I can't think about the future right now. I want to enjoy this as I've been always thinking in the future and not enjoying any step we did. No I'm older and wiser and I know that I need to enjoy the little things of life. We talked about doing a soundtrack for a documentary that is being filmed... but we have just started to talk to the Director.

(...)