

# GABARDINE

## Gabardine story

Gabardine exists since 1996 or even a bit longer. In 1996 however, this denomination has been found, thoroughly considered and deemed to be beautiful. An identity was already there before, developed during years on a common pop drillground. Gabardine's quest for the perfect song nourishes a music, which nowadays might most closely be described as Noise- or LoFi-pop. Such qualifications, however, do not cope. To please with what Gabardine likes, is the actual ambition and not to concern about a possible failure of such a high demand. Waiting for the personal hype seems to be more promising anyway. The target audience is the obvious one: Gabardine produces nice tunes for couples in love, for evenings in front of a toneless TV, for nervous dogs, for confused orientation runners and for subtle radio listeners of course.

## Gabardine line up

Manfred Hirt	vocals, guitar
Daniel Hobi	vocals, drums
Roberto Tomai	bass, electronics

## Gabardine recordings

The debut-CD "variety outlet" (12 songs: plastik, easier, marvel, melt, bar, feel slow, fast, sore, tv-guide, lüdelü, radio fire, how we are) has been recorded throughout 1997 in Zurich. It was released in 1998 to quite surprising and widespread critical acclaim and by now is sold out.

The second CD "soda fountain" (14 songs: enough sweaters, coming on, family matters, simulate yourself, butter is there, drainboard, spitsbegen club med, amateur reader, traffic jazz, queensize comfort, twisted, collide, sleeperette) was supported by the "Popkredit" of the city of Zurich and has been recorded in autumn 1999/spring 2000 at Star Track Studios Schaffhausen with Olifr "Guz" Maurmann. Release in Switzerland: August 14th 2000 on Daisycutter/RecRec-recordings. Release in Germany: March 2001.

Gabardine also appeared with a 4-track version of "melt" on a sampler dedicated to swiss LoFi-music. Furthermore Gabardine appeared on a noise-pop sampler by the german label BluNoise (distributed by EFA) with the song "enough sweaters".

The third album "slowmotion rocket" with 15 new songs was just finished and is supported by "Pro Helvetia"-cultural fund. It was recorded in the band-owned studio. Mastering was done at "echo chamber"-zurich, by dan suter.

Release in Switzerland is september 8th on Daisycutter/Tricycle Evolutif/RecRec.

## **Gabardine Concerts**

up to now:

KIFF, Aarau / Kaserne, Basel / Sommercasino, Basel / Hirscheneck, Basel / Gaskessel, Bern / Scala, Bubikon / Frisson, Fribourg / Cafe XXe, Fribourg / Bikini Test, La Chaux de Fonds / Sedel, Luzern / For Noise Festival, Pully / Fass, Schaffhausen / Tab Tap, Schaffhausen / Rössli, Stäfa / Kulturwerk 118, Sursee / Kulturfabrik, Wetzikon / Chaotikum, Zug / Abart / Dynamo / LUV / Moods / Rote Fabrik / Ziegel oh Lac / El Lokal, alle Zürich / Open Air, D-Waldshut / Club2, D-München / Bastard, D-Berlin / Golden Pudel, D-Hamburg / Riese Efa, D-Dresden / Iلسes Erika, D-Leipzig / Cafe Limba, D-Villingen / Sonderbar, A-Feldkirch - and others more

## **Gabardine heroes**

Beck, Flaming Lips, Guided by Voices, Pavement, The Sea and Cake, Sebadoh, Sonic Youth, Soul Coughing, Wheat, Yo La Tengo

## **Gabardine contact**

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## **GABARDINE PRESS ARTICLES SODA FOUNTAIN**

Letzigrund

The second album by the trio Gabardine is one of the most convincing Swiss records of the last few years. A grumbling LoFi masterpiece, it oscillates successfully between fragile slow motion and fiery fast forward. The subtle sonic tapestries that Manfred Hirt, Daniel Hobi and Roberto Tomai manage to pull from their instruments are amazing, and the songwriting is simply awesome. The only thing separating Gabardine from billiard tournament with Radiohead, Blur and dEUS is the occasionally intruding Swiss accent of the singer. Otherwise: Marvellous forever.

(Tages-Anzeiger 8-30-2000, Zurich, Switzerland)

Zurich Aussersihl all the way

Hallelujah! We are celebrating the arrival of a phenomenal new album, which is bound to wake the city from its late summer slumber: "Soda Fountain" by Gabardine. After their great debut disc "Variety Outlet" (1998), this Zurich band presents a collection of first-rate gleam-below-the-surface songs. The trio, whose characteristic blend of LoFi indie rock and bossa nova has been abtly described as "Ipanema punk", consists of Manfred Hirt (the guitar player with the longest effect loop), Roberto Tomai (dubbed "world's funniest bass player" by a local paper), and drummer Daniel Hobi, who has been known to run a circle around his drumkit instead of taking a solo.

"Soda Fountain" finds them layering catchy pop hooks with intriguing soundscapes, open feedback with refreshing guitar runs. Thus a masterpiece emerges, a string of pop music pearls, an album that sounds like an intense conversation between Yo La Tengo and Sonic Youth at the Jazz school rec room. And if everything else in the world is accidental - this record is a necessity.

(Metropol, 8-29-2000, Zurich, Switzerland)

Gabardine-Soda Fountain

Over the last few years some wonderful music emerged from Switzerland. Some more noisy stuff (like "Favez", "Chewy") but also softer music (like "Sportsguitar"). The Zurich based trio Gabardine effortlessly fits in here and presents with "Soda Fountain" a truly wonderful album. The songs are sometimes reminiscent of american LoFi with a touch of dEUS and then again they are totally different. Livingroom-pop would be an adequate description. A swiss journalist called it Ipanema-punk because Gabardine sometimes like to build in bossanova-elements to their songs. It's obvious that musicians with an awesome sence for harmonies and with wonderful, mature songwriting were at work here. The record bursts with beautiful ideas and Olifr "Guz" Maurmann did an excellent producer job. "Soda Fountain" in any case is a small jewel that makes me smile again and again! beautiful record.

(Gästeliste-music magazine, 3-2001, Dortmund, Germany)

### Gabardine-Soda Fountain

Emocore and LoFi-Rock from Switzerland with its own profile. Small but beautiful. The trio knows how to put on stage wonderful songs with minimal and reduced noise: "coming on" for example. Gabardine open up the curtains, but just as far as the tension remains and to see - or better to hear - that there is also a harmonium or some rare synth-sprinkles. Yes, some of it could be influenced by Sonic Youth or Baden-Powell, like "butter is there". HaHa. Suits to just-beeing-in-love or to an espresso in your favourite coffee shop at 4 p.m....

(Bierfront-music magazine, 3-2001, Aachen, Germany)

## **GABARDINE PRESS ARTICLES**

### **VARIETY OUTLET**

#### Ipanema Punk?

Nowadays: One writes twelve wonderful songs, records them during rehearsals, drives with the tapes to Martin "Kramer" Söhnlein (Muri AG) and mixes them there. This masterplan has also been followed by the Zurich based band Gabardine. A silver disc has emerged with songs about radios, plastic bags and the tv program. The synthesizer buzzes hyperactively, the guitars feed back and the cello sounds much better than with ELO. This is LoFi, this is washed out pop, this is livingroom jazz. And of course, to finally answer the title question, this is ipanema punk. in short: Your friends will envy you this record.

(Toaster, August 1998)

Playful, rumbling indie pop, intimate songs, noisy guitars, dreamy singing and the regulators on red - Gabardine is the newest life sign of the swiss indie scene. My friend Strässle said once that good music should do something to the audience. And he's right where he's right. This is what this quartet and their music does, you know. You are forced to listen here! Of course some will turn off their stereo. Taste, as we know, is something personal. But even those who turn off must admit that Gabardine is at work with a lot of energy and good ideas. They manage for example to play a refined easy-listening-song with latin touch in a dinosaur jr.-version ("marvel"). This testifies for their daredevilry, since it might easily go wrong. Similarly thrilling music is only produced by a few electronics aficionados and a handful of other guitar bands. Besides Fingerpoke, Crop Circles, Disco Doom, Nieselregen, Sportguitar, Mas à Tierra, Shilf and Leech, we have here another treasury of innovative rock music. I can only hope that they won't be discovered by a major company. It would be a pity for this band's pleasure in experimenting.

(musicscene, October 1998)

#### LoFi in Switzerland

(...) Some remarkable examples: Gabardine, the Zurich based trio who also performed in the jazz club "Moods": The kings of feedback work with howling analog-synths and rattling and whistling guitars. "Radio Fire" for example is a totally deconstructed feedback orgy. Toward the end of the record (Variety Outlet) the sound gets noisier, freer and more disharmonic.(...) LoFi with trademark Gabardine is big in the underground. The band with its superb songs can be seen in all the clubs around.

(musicscene, February 1999)

the top 33 swiss records 1998

Gabardine, "Variety Outlet" (own distribution)

placed in the blurred LoFi landscape, where Pavement are the uncrowned kings, this Zurich band plays with its songs, lets them rumble, flow, squeak. the unpretentious and experimental songs, reflecting a subtle feeling for melodies and arrangement, offer an intimate experience to the audience.

(musicscene, February 1999)

#### 4-track show

(...) some of the bands are already known: (...) Gabardine for example, the current kings of club concerts who released last year their wonderful CD "Variety Outlet". With their string instruments and amps they reach very unique sounds.(...)

(Wochenzeitung. February 1999)