

07

Electronica

Gaurav Raina

FROM GREY TO SILVER - THAT'S GRAIN'S NEW TAKE ON ELECTRONICA.

100% ELECTRONICA



INSIDE HIS STUDIO



Playing and looping samples comes easy when he's in his studio



The cockpit where Grain's creations are engineered



The studio is weaved with the right blend of gadgets and posters



A grand piano rests besides Gaurav's workstation.

It was in '97 when Gaurav and Tapan came together to form India's first collective electronica outfit - The Midival Punditz. It's been 17 years since and now Gaurav has a new baby - GRAIN. Gaurav feels that this is a gradual progress from initial days when it was just about deejaying and making people dance. As we got chatting we realised Gaurav has come closer to electronica song-writing, and in the process destroying the notion of electronica being confused as dance music.

For a big fan of lyrically heavy bands like the Radiohead and the Led Zep, GRAIN had to happen sooner or later, he feels. With his new album 'Grey To Silver' out, Gaurav brings a plethora of collaborations with names like Karsh Kale, Anoushka Shankar and Monica Dogra, and beats that sway you on rhythmic and melodic patterns. Gaurav was kind enough to invite us to his studio located in a quaint corner of the chic Hauz Khas Village market, where

we got to talking to him about this new project. His solo project comes out at a time when electronic music is becoming a household name, but he has a different opinion. "We are still facing the same problem that we experienced 10 years back. Our country has ample talent, and we've seen a number of artists going places, but the main hindrance remains that we ape the West," he asserts. "EDM has pretty much taken the centre-stage of almost all kinds of music in our country - Bollywood, Punjabi and so on. The problem is that artists aren't willing to

break the boundaries and make music. It's kind of become rhetoric in patterns as well," Gaurav wonders why electronica is still associated with dance music. Next we asked him about what made him choose this moniker? To which he responds, "Most people use a name that is fancy, and which tries to emulate a 'cool' factor. For me, GRAIN refers to the detail in imperfection, in chaos and in normalcy. Also, GRAIN can be easily expanded into my name (laughs)."

The debut album has taken a year to produce the songs, and about another year to laze on it, Gaurav insists. Before meeting 'GRAIN' we were given an opportunity to listen to the tracks and we must say we were mighty impressed. No, the tracks don't boast of bass-heavy groovy numbers that they'd make you go ga-ga on a dance-floor. Rather they are more concentrated on the different influences that Gaurav has classified as his own style. These influences range from

subtle percussions, sitar-laden hummable melodies and vocal chords rendered by some of the most respected and profound Indian origin artists. And it would only be right to say that this is not just another run-of-the-mill electronic album. So why did he choose to delve into electronica, we ask? "I am trying to make an impact on the image of electronic music. In this album I have penned a lot of emotional electronica that gives respite from your traditional dance floor stuff", he says. Before we left, we were absolutely impressed with this man and his mission.

I AM TRYING TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE IMAGE OF ELECTRONIC MUSIC



Words: Nishant Nayyar