

VAN HOLZEN – Anomalie

Anomaly (an-o-ma-ly): Something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected.

Back in March 2017, VAN HOLZEN released their debut album “Anomalie” – and caused a medium scale earthquake in the musical landscape of Germany. The record went straight to the top 50 of the German album charts, a feat that only very few newcomers or trailblazers achieved in their time. Prestigious German music magazine VISIONS hailed “Anomalie” as “one of the most exciting debuts from Germany in a long time” and bestowed the band with a cover story for their debut album, making them the first newcomers since Kraftklub in 2012 to receive this accolade. Elsewhere, critics compared the band to the likes of Queens Of The Stone Age, Royal Blood and Biffy Clyro. In recent times, VAN HOLZEN have played support shows for international stars such as Biffy Clyro, Billy Talent and Papa Roach as well as domestic greats such as Madsen, Wanda and Turbostaat, performed at the reputable “Preis für Popkultur”, won the Play Live Award 2016 and were nominated at the New Music Award 2016. Long story short: VAN HOLZEN are the biggest hopes of today’s German rock music.

On “Anomalie”, the band – hailing from the South German city of Ulm – draws their inspiration from the primordial soup of modern rock and metal: Deftones, Tool, Kyuss, Biffy Clyro – VAN HOLZEN are the next link in a long development chain that now, for the first time, anchors in the German realm as well. Razor-sharp in-your-face riffs drill into your brain like rusty nails, gigantic hooks interplay with mathematically concise groove elements while feverishly brooding vocals draw gloomy black and white contrasts from the world of experience of a lost generation. Aggression and anger as the biggest driving force, feeding into VAN HOLZEN’s unique sound aesthetics – on “Anomalie”, they are creating their own dark, dystopian world. Sketch the outlines of an adolescent generation in momentary glimpses of our precarious, fast-paced and confusing times that are full of disruption and upheaval. Times where nothing is guaranteed, instead everyone has to grind their own way through.

Frontman / guitarist Florian Kiesling, bassist Jonas Schramm and Drummer Daniel Kotitschke got together as a band as early as 2009. Still under a different name at the time, they set off to perform well over 250 concerts. Their early influences were as diverse as the three VAN HOLZEN members themselves are: Slipknot, Foo Fighters and Biffy Clyro – points of reference that only left marginal traces in the unique signature sound you’ll hear from them today. After all, what was yesterday is insignificant today. Only the here and now is what matters for these three 17- and 18-year-old musicians. “We make German rock”, says frontman Florian curtly. “Reduced, straightforward, hand-crafted. I need something to let off steam. To run myself to the ground. To channel my anger. VAN HOLZEN is the perfect medium for that.”

The band are currently working on their second album, slated for release in summer 2018.

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