After emerging from the relative obscurity of Belarus with their self-released debut LP С Крыш Наших Домов ("From the Roofs of Our Houses") in 2017, Molchat Doma (Molchat Doma) have created a buzz around their sound: danceable and dark with a heavy dose of cold synth sounds. As a trio, Egor Shkutko (vocals), Roman Komogortsev (guitar, synths), and Pavel Kozlov (bass/synths) have experienced widespread acclaim for their work and sold out gigs around Europe with plans to tour North America when the world reopens. With a new album promised for fall, we spoke with Roman Komogortsev about the choice to write and sing in Russian, creativity in a time of uncertainty, and, of course, the 80s.

What is your process for selecting album artwork? Have you been influenced by particular art movement or have any specific artists influenced your album artwork’s creative direction? RK: At one time, I was inspired by a book with various buildings of Soviet architecture and gray landscapes of our city. "Houses are Silent" is [the] correct translation. We [sing] in Russian.

Molchat Doma is based in Minsk, Belarus. Not many of our readers are familiar with this region. What is the alternative music/fashion culture currently like in eastern Europe and Belarus? RK: I don’t even know, since I don’t really follow some popular events. There is a good underground music scene, as well as a popular one. But in order for some kind of fame to [spread beyond] Belarus, we are probably the flagships of the Belarusian scene at the moment (although we sing in Russian).

Is there a particular genre of music that is gaining popularity in Minsk or Belarus overall? RK: In the renaissance, indie music of various kinds: indie pop, fake jazz, the same postpunk, hip hop. Many bands play garage rock or something like that. I advise you to pay attention to Luitier Louise, Weed & Dolphins, COF03.

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Carrying on with the 80s theme, what gear do you use to create your sound? Some of the thematic elements of your music are the clean synth sounds and refined production with guitar effects and vocals that are reminiscent of the 80s. Do you use vintage gear or effects on your instruments to create the sound you've become known for?

RK: Yes, these are vintage synthesizers: Yamaha DX7, Roland Juno-106, Roland Jx-3p. We also use samples of vintage drum machines: Linn drum, Oberheim DMX, Yamaha rx11. Some VST plugins. I don't want to explain further how we make our sound, let it be a little secret, but everything is very simple in it.

What has been your biggest performance/audience to date? It seems like your performance at 2019’s Pop-Kultur Berlin Festival turned a lot of new fans on to your music.

RK: I think our concert in London/Scala [in February 2020] was the biggest. It was something. England in general is pure love.

How would you describe your live performance? I noted on your technical rider that you need fog... Lots of fog!

RK: It's not for us to evaluate it, let people say better. Smoke is needed to create the necessary gloomy atmosphere. After all, we are not Taylor Swift.

What music has been inspiring you lately?

RK: For example, John Frusciante, Black Sabbath, IDLES, She Past Away, Ploho.

What's next for Молчат Дома?

RK: Wait for the new album this fall!

Find out more at molchatdoma.com, follow them on Instagram @molchatdomaband, and check out their music.