



memoryhouse

by: lee lawver

As the name might suggest, Memoryhouse's music summons an affair of deep thought. It's an ethereal listen, likely the soundtrack to life amongst the clouds, but no less daunting an experience on the ground. Their sound is often described as dream pop, and while placing a label on it isn't necessary, they don't disagree.

The two-piece band of dreamers from Ontario consists of Evan Abeele and Denise Nouvion. Abeele is a musician known for his fascination with neoclassicism, while Nouvion is a photographer who just so happens to have discovered she can sing. According to Abeele, the band began when he and Nouvion recorded a cover of "These Days" by Jackson Browne.

"We had met a few months earlier, and had decided we wanted to work on a project together, but I suppose the Jackson Browne cover was the first instance pop music entered the equation," says Abeele.

Something must have clicked, as the project developed into a more serious endeavor and adopted the name Memoryhouse. The band's name was born out of a tribute to the classical composer Max

Richter, although Abeele admits he could have avoided the always inevitable interview question by "choosing a more straight forward band name like Seinfeld, or Robocop."

While the band's obvious focus is to create beautiful music, they place a great deal of emphasis on maintaining a satisfying visual aesthetic. And it's no surprise that Nouvion's photography has been the main source of the eye-catching material in each of Memoryhouse's releases to date. Nouvion's photographs are often grainy, as if consumed by fog. This mysteriousness parallels the band's music, because despite providing feelings of warmth, the sounds seem to roar from a land just out of reach.

Generating such a complex array of emotions through their music is something that Abeele and Nouvion attribute to their inspirations. According to Nouvion, the band is greatly influenced by literature and cinema.

"For instance," says Nouvion, "recently Evan and I reviewed all of Quentin Tarantino's films, and that really seemed to give us a boost. I guess what we really want is to make the Kill Bill of music."

While channeling their inner action flick as a two-piece band allows Memoryhouse freedom and flexibility, their intricate song structures make playing live and maintaining the essence of the music a difficult task. According to Nouvion, performing was a challenging new experience that allowed the band to grow in many areas.

"I think we've finally reached that point now that we are comfortable enough to just let go and have fun," says Nouvion. And now, for much of their touring, Memoryhouse will be playing with a full band to help capture every element of their songs and provide more entertainment for fans.

Many of the songs the band plays live will come from their new release with Sub Pop Records, the *Years* EP. While the EP is actually a reissue with its first physical pressing, it has been entirely rerecorded. The songs remain the same at their core, but Nouvion says they sound completely different from the band's previous recordings. It's a cleaner and more focused version of the original.

"I think what we like about doing music is that it gives us the opportunity to do other things as well," says Nouvion. "We're not only able to create art, but we're given a stage and a platform to do it, and that is the best possible situation."

The sky isn't the limit for Memoryhouse, as their music already finds them there. They may very well be reaching for another dimension, and it's not unlikely that they'll find it.