

Auvie Sinclair – “Paint” EP – ABH001 – Q&A

Tell us more about you as a person, why did you become a musician? Tell us more about your earliest musical experience that made you want to make music.

I was introduced to music pretty early in my life, I think my earliest memory was playing on a fisher price guitar and a Yamaha keyboard that took those D batteries. I also had a little tape player that I would listen to whatever I could on, I think my favorite tape to listen to at that point in time was “Cameo – In the face of funk”, I want to say that album came out in 95 or 96. It was also just my introduction to their music in general. I had no idea what they looked like or that they had made classics that my parents had enjoyed way before my time. Unfortunately I believe I recorded over either that tape or another one because I wanted to hear my voice playback at me...But ever since those moments I’ve been able to develop a taste in music that I would consider both tasteful as well as sporadic. There’s so much music that I’ve been exposed to that it’s hard to keep track of it all and pinpoint a favorite. I love early and prime Motown (James Jamerson was a genius), I love Hyperdub and Brainfeeder, 70’s and 80’s funk, Parliament (Cosmic Slop) I love Gnarls Barkley, Gorillaz, Karriem Riggins, Dilla/Madlib of course, Actress, Zomby, Burial... There’s too much to reasonably put in this, but all of this music; I’ve studied it and I’ve listened to it closely and it all has influenced me in a huge way and has continued to inspire me to make music.

Tell us more about the EP: What software are you using? Are you collaborating with anyone? Who’s mastering it? Etc.

I’m an Ableton user, I began with FL Studio when I was in high school but things really clicked when I started using a Ableton Lite disc that came with my first midi controller. I remember a couple of years prior to this I heard talk about Ableton and that it had a 30 day demo while I was still using FL Studio. I didn’t really know what I was doing and at the time and it was overwhelming me, so I stopped using it and continued to use FL Studio for maybe 2 or 3 more years. I gave Ableton another shot and I’ve been with it ever since then. For the EP I have only one collaboration and it’s with a really great, longtime friend of mine, Eduardo (Chi Chi). We met in middle school, we had classes together and we were in school band to and he played the saxophone. He actually burned me a copy of Gorillaz – Demon Days, like a month or two before I got the actual CD for Christmas that year, and that was one of the albums that changed my life and altered the way I listen to music. We would talk about video games a lot and I remember him being a pretty big fan of Ghostface Killah (Pretty Tony Era). Even throughout high school, we didn’t have a lot of classes together but we still managed to connect with one another through passing periods and lunch and even after school sometimes. Ed has always been a kind soul and a proud man and I couldn’t be happier to have him included on this project. We actually made the song through facetime one day, didn’t even think it would end up like it did, we were just making music strictly as two buddies that love funk music and it will forever remain a high point to me because of this.

As far as mastering goes, the EP was mastered by Quinn (Studenets) of Oligopolist Records. One of the first people I became friends with when I moved to Portland. He consistently puts out quality and cares about the work he’s doing and because of this people respect him. I’m incredibly grateful to know him and I’m super excited to have him be a part of this project.

What is the EP inspired by?

The EP is inspired by everything in my life up to this point. But I feel like it's mostly a reflection of the past 2 or 3 years specifically. Not all of these songs were started this year, some were started maybe 1 or 2 years ago but maybe this was the year they went through a heavy change. This could be applied to me as well, I went through a lot mentally and I wasn't really sure if I was or even wanted to move forward with certain things. That's kind of the reason I put out "8:31" on my soundcloud page. I posted it in 2017 but it was finished in 2016...It's not the most detailed, It's not the cleanest sounding or highest quality, but it was honest and it was me and that was the point of making it. I needed to reset as a person and I had to find the love in making music again. I got too caught up in the technical aspects and I wasn't enjoying making music as much. That was a super important time for me, and I actually built the courage to make that after Quinn and I spent the Winter (2015) working on music for hours, high as hell just improvising and not giving a shit, we were thinking less and doing more...we were literally communicating through music, it was honestly beautiful and I don't think there will ever be another time like it. I'm glad we were able to make something out of it and I fully believe that we took advantage of that time and we can now look back and acknowledge that something important happened. I know that was a departure from the original question, but all of that is pretty much what inspired this EP, those life experiences and abeahappening of course for even being kind enough to ask me to do this.

Tell us about your writing process: Do you sit hours upon hours making beats? Do it when you feel like it? Do you finish songs from start to finish or hash out ideas then come back to them later to finish?

I like to get the main idea out as quickly as I can. I've learned the hard way that it's better to just get out as much as you can first and then fix it up or edit it later. I used to really stress myself out when I wouldn't make music, I felt like because I'm a "producer" I had to absolutely be all about music and make music 24/7 and just be that person. But really, I've found the opposite has made me better. I'll have my moments where shit just clicks and I can get my ideas out no problem and I'll sit down for hours but it feels like minutes, those are the good days. But they're also few and far between, nowadays I take way longer breaks in between sessions because I'm just more productive if I've been away for a while. It builds back up the desire in me to want to get back to it. I definitely still love to make music, but I've also just accepted that I don't have to make it all the time to be considered a musician. Life experiences away from the screen and with the people I love are way more valuable to me.

Were you listening or watching anything in particular quite a bit during the recording and writing process?

During the main process of making this EP I watched both seasons of "Ozark" on Netflix and I was hooked, one of my good friends also recommended I watch the first season of "True

Detective" and I thought that show was amazing. I also loved "Better call Saul" and "Snowfall" and of course "Atlanta". Aside from that, I played a lot of God of War, Shadow of the Colossus, and Spider-Man on PS4 and now I'm excited to play Red Dead Redemption 2 when it comes out. Watching and playing all of these really helped ease stress, sparked my creativity and allowed me to problem solve in a more entertaining way. How does Oregon/Portland/Beaverton influence your music?

A Beat Happening and Thirsty City are my go to events, I love the people involved and I feel like they really care about pushing the Portland scene into a brighter light without sacrificing what makes the community so unique in the first place. Kipp (Thirsty City), Jonas and Derrick (ABH) are some of the hardest working people doing this in Portland right now and I feel like it's only a matter of time before

the ball really gets rolling. Also I've been to that club Dynasty like twice and it's gone off both times, so I'd say that those experiences have also influenced me as far as the feeling I want my music to give to people and to myself. Also, a HUGE shout to Hungry Hungry Hip Hop/MG Productions for always supporting and giving me a platform to present on, one of my first solo shows was alongside them @thirsty city a couple of years ago and they've all been super down to earth and supportive of me ever since then.

If you could hope that your music inspires someone to do something, what would that be?

Anyone that reads this or listens to my music, I just want you to be happy and I want you to be able to go to sleep at night knowing that what you're doing is both something that is beneficial to the world in some capacity, and something that makes you proud to be you. Don't worry about how well or how bad other people are doing than you are, just do your best and take care of yourself. Take a break when you need to take a break, don't feel like you have to work 24/7, and just enjoy this life because you may never experience another like it again..

Tell me more about your musical influences? Are you hoping to achieve a certain sound or theme on the new EP?

Not at all, I think more than anything I'm just trying to develop my own sound. You'll definitely hear influences in my work but it's more so because I've listened to these artists a crazy amount of times over the years. But overall, the end goal for me is to try new things on future projects and have a full album where people can just tell that it's an Auvie Sinclair record.