



ANTTI PAALANEN: Rujo

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Antti Paalanen (born 1977) creates his wild music on the simple accordions so familiar to Finnish folk music. Although inspired by tradition, Paalanen has nevertheless created a sound world all his own, where tradition gives way to trance-like minimalism, EDM influenced beats, Siberian throat-singing and controlled and insightful use of modern sound technology. Paalanen's previous album *Meluta* was the final component of his artistically oriented doctorate, *Bursting bellows – Bisonoric accordion's bellows rhythmic in composition*, which was examined at the Sibelius Academy in 2015. His doctorate focused on writing new music for the bisonoric accordion from the perspective of instrumentality. *Meluta* was nominated for Teosto prize in Finland and in 2016 for the Nordic Council Music Prize.

The last three years Antti has been touring festivals all over the World – mostly around Europe, but also in places like Canada and Japan. At the same time he has been writing tunes for a new album, which is now finally released. The album title *Rujo* roughly translates to barbarous, unrefined or coarse.

– *This is my truth about music and it is on purpose a bit unrefined at times*, Antti says of his music.

Antti's aim was to bring the sound of his instrument – that was used traditionally in folk music to make people dance – to be a relevant element in modern electronic dance music with a little help from his regular sound engineer **Samuli Volanto**, modern Finnish pop producers **Lauri Halavaara** and **Jonas Olsson** as well as the guest musicians **Teemu Vuorela** on drums and **Piia Kleemola** on kantele.

Child In You, originally released as a single with guest vocals, has developed into an anthem, and several more tracks now feature Antti singing in addition to his accordion. On *Dance For Me* and *Elä (Gotta Live)* his vocals are thick and coarse, reminiscent of Siberian throat-singing. Both the tribal World Music track *Wakamambo (Mambo Horizontal)* and softer *Hede & emi (Pollination)* also benefit from Antti's simple, repetitive vocals. *Pollination* is a sad, irresistibly groovy song about climate change – a futuristic love story of two flowers left alone in a World that has no more bees.

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