

“Kirchner in the Mountains”

FACT SHEET

KEY INFORMATION

Song title: Kirchner in the Mountains
Album title: Destruction / Reconstruction
Band name: Mexican Radio
Release date: 9 August, 2019
Band: Nathaniel Fregoso (vocals, keys, effects)
Dyan Valdés (vocals, keys)
Hannes Neupert (vocals, drums)
Production: [Mischkah Wilke](#) (production, engineering and mixing)
[Arne Ziemann](#) (mastering)
Artwork: [Timm Hartmann](#) (artwork and layout)
[Petra Valdimarsdóttir](#) (photography)
Studios: [Studio B](#), Kaulsdorf (recording)
[Kozmic Sound](#), Weißensee (mixing)
[Oakfield Mastering](#), Regensburg (mastering)
Label: R.I.P. Ben Lee Records

LYRICS

written by Nathaniel Fregoso

Kirchner in the mountains

Berlin was an inspiration
Although I drank intemperately
My studio was filled with drawings
And the occasional orgy

Kirchner in the mountains

I volunteered for the military

Do something good for my country
War is a terrible muse
I'm one of its atrocities

It's broken me

We've found a little house in Davos
Erna's taking care of me
I like the hard working people
We'll live here comfortably
Surrounded by my art

Carpets, sketches and carvings
I'm turning to the landscape now to
Paint this depression out of me

Kirchner in the mountains

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

answered by Dyan

Who was [Ernst Kirchner](#)?

Ernst Kirchner was a very prolific artist from the [Brücke](#) movement in Germany in the early 20th century. He fought in the First World War and had a mental breakdown afterwards, and spent some time in a sanatorium to deal with war trauma and various substance abuse issues. He later moved to the mountains in Switzerland to finish his career in a more peaceful environment, finding some comfort in the pastoral setting.

What is "[Kirchner in the Mountains](#)" about?

When we first moved to Berlin, we became very interested in the art that came from this city, particularly art that was made during its most tumultuous periods. Works from artists of the *Die Brücke* group really resonated with us - there are a few excellent

museums and galleries here where we've been fortunate enough to see a lot of their work.

Kirchner's story in particular is fascinating. Seeing how these major world events were experienced, interpreted and expressed by a single artist is incredibly powerful. Nathaniel narrates the song from his perspective, beginning with his heady days in Berlin, continuing through the First World War and ending with his time in the mountains of Switzerland, where he is "turning to the landscape now to paint this depression out of me."

I love the idea of using art to overcome depression and trauma. You can actually see this transformation in his etchings and paintings, which go from being very frantic and stormy to being open, colorful and peaceful.

Ultimately, his art couldn't save him from his demons, both internal and external - he took his own life in 1938 as the Nazis were tightening their stronghold on his home country.

It's a fascinating story, and we wanted to capture the feeling of throwing oneself into one's work to squeeze some hope out of what seems to be a hopeless situation.

Tell us about the music.

The music of "Kirchner in the Mountains" is very repetitive and dark. The same trudging bassline repeats over and over, as the drums vary in intensity throughout the song. Nathaniel's lead parts soar over the weighty bassline to give it a very epic feel.

To me, the song sounds like a person lumbering through the mountains. The descending bassline gives a feeling of continuously falling over, which is what I imagine trying to stand up again after having such a complete mental breakdown must feel like. Vocally, this is one of the songs where we push the hardest - a complete emotional catharsis.