

“Yukio Mishima Suicide”

FACT SHEET

KEY INFORMATION

Song title: Yukio Mishima Suicide
Album title: Destruction / Reconstruction
Band name: Mexican Radio
Release date: 6 September, 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

Human life is short
But I wish to live forever
Human life is short
But I wish to live forever

Yukio Mishima suicide
Tatenokai, tatenokai
Yukio Mishima suicide

On the border of life and death

A man's head on a carpet
On the border of life and death
A man's head on a carpet

Yukio Mishima suicide
Tatenokai, tatenokai
Yukio Mishima suicide

Brutality, elegance, brutality
Don't hesitate, don't hesitate

Yukio Mishima suicide
Tatenokai, tatenokai
Yukio Mishima suicide

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

answered by Dyan Valdés

Who was [Yukio Mishima](#)?

Yukio Mishima was an extremely prolific Japanese author who lived from 1925 until his suicide in 1970. He formed a civilian militia called the [Tatenokai](#) (Shield Society) that was dedicated to traditional Japanese imperial values and the code of the samurai. They attempted a coup in 1970 that was a monumental failure, ending in Mishima committing ritual suicide.

What is “Yukio Mishima Suicide” about?

The song focuses primarily on the moments leading up to Mishima's suicide rather than his extensive body of work. The first words of the song are Mishima's last words, "human life is short, but I wish to live forever." The rest of the lyrics represent an attempt to understand Mishima's struggle for immortality. What drove him to the point where such an extreme and violent act was not only able to be considered, but in fact became

the only necessary way forward? The story of his life and shocking death is incredibly interesting, and this is our way of telling a tiny sliver of it.

Tell us about the music.

This song started as a drum loop that Hannes recorded and then sent to Nathaniel and me, to which we added a repetitive and very simple bassline. Nathaniel added a sweeping synth on top that sounds to me like an air raid siren - very fitting, as Mishima wrote quite a lot about living through air raids on Japan during the war. My part is a very elegant synth string part, which provides a sharp contrast to Nathaniel's dirty and disconcerting lead. In a way, I think we captured the brutality / elegance dichotomy that Nathaniel sings about, while also making a subtle historical reference to the war that provided the backdrop of his early works and no doubt had a huge impact on his life.