

# PAINTED ROMANS

**official EPK** rev. 03/2023

**Painted Romans is a long-standing eclectic solo act turned band on several occasions over the years. Paradoxically it wasn't until 2020, that brutal year when the world came on the brink of to collapse, that unexpected DJ and listener response drew Painted Romans out of the dark. An era of total obscurity came to an end.**



## WALLPAPER SILHOUETTES YEARS

Mats D. has been making music for three decades. Some might remember the cheeky post-punked and notoriously unpredictable "new" new wave band **Wallpaper Silhouettes**, active between the years 1999 and 2006; very much an "anti everything" act which, despite a handful of fans and critics home and abroad hailing it as an unfashionably authentic music group, went against the grain, messed up its own traction, and eventually found itself relegated to the outside of any worthwhile music scene in the early aughts, while admittedly casting long looks of contempt at the hyper-commercial new wave music movement that began to trend as Wallpaper Silhouettes fizzled out.

## EARLY PAINTED ROMANS

By 2006 WS had run its course, but a more or less latent outsider persona continued to give character to the artsy, introverted, and melancholic musical act **Painted Romans**. A slight peak in interest and expectations followed the critically acclaimed 2008 "romantic synth pop" album with the bizzare title *Evil Wigs and Bedroom Moments (40 Mins of Unsettling Painted Romans)*. However, initial interest was quick to fade both among listeners and press as the group (then a trio of ex-WS members) failed to keep up a momentum. The following semi-experimental pop album *...and Time!* (2010) was a solo effort, and from then on Painted Romans would function as a sole moniker for Mats's low-key output over the next decade, occasionally surfacing for the odd gig either alone or with ex-Cybele drummer Monica Ruud and bass player Thomas Sejnæs.

## NEW DRIVE

Out of touch and unaware of a so called "post-punk revival", Mats kind of "returned to his roots" in 2020 and made the *Heart* record, an album that gave Painted Romans a healthy dose of much needed reputation. To mark its release in a pandemic situation, a trio with Mats and former members Jan Ottar Nystad and Thomas Sejnæs did a streamed live concert on the 16th of October. They moved forward with this lineup, quickly attaining a degree of consistency and enabling the act to perform live again, although the pandemic didn't allow for much of that.

A series of hard-hitting singles helped establish a new listener base for Painted Romans.

January 2021 saw *The Cold Delight* which according to **Onyx Music Reviews** is "dark and morose just like all good goth songs can be and yet full of movement and life at the same time". **White Light // White Heat** had it as their track of the day.

Preceding it was *Formation* from the mini-album *Heart*, a full-on gothic darkwave song that caught the interest of many around the world. It is beyond doubt the tune that hauled Painted Romans out before an international "dark" music audience. *Heart* itself made it onto **El Garaje De Frank's** best of 2020 list.

Coupled with the rough and tough May '21 gothic rocker *Memento Mori* – "another song that will continually be present in our stereos this summer" (El Garaje De Frank) – Painted Romans now had a trio of songs that would enjoy a fair amount of airplay on top international alternative and underground FM and web radio.

Another big highlight of the year was a performance at local gothic/pagan celebratory private festival **Celebrata Hindrheimr**.

In February 2022 Thomas left the group citing lack of enthusiasm. Mats put out a single called *The Begging Existence*, while the remaining duo adjusted to the loss of their bass player and gave a well-received 45-minute live performance at the **Goths for Sanctuaries** online festival in April, followed by local shows in June.

Mats has been spending the latter part of 2022 and early months of '23 making a new album. It is expected to come out in Spring.

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**On the web:**

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