

melt

January/February 2008

ALBUM OF THE MONTH



JUNKIE XL
BOOMING BACK AT YOU
(Artwek Records)

★★★★★

Dutch born musician, remixer DJ and super-producer Junkie XL is back with his fifth proper studio record, *Boomin Back At You*. Now if your down with the dance-rock movement this guy's body of work probably reads like the soundtrack to your life, but if not, you still might know his tracks from the myriad of video game soundtracks he's helped produced and written songs for. His sound is tough, heavy and if you're not careful, will likely bounce you right out of the room! This time out he's tried to give us a record that more embodies the experience of his live show and if you've ever been to one you'd know you have to come prepared for just about anything. Musically never comfortable in one place, this new work will likely even turn longtime fans on their ears. The lead single making it's way around the clubs (as well as the soon to be released *Need For Speed Pro Street*), "More" features vocals from the awesomely raspy Lauren Rocket, front-woman for emerging LA all-girl outfit Rocket. The track which has already taken on several nicknames from fans including it's original moniker "Fuck More" and it's unofficial title, "The Pac-Man Song", encourages the listener to "Fuck More!, Roll More!, Fuck More!, Pac-Man Is Loving It!". Not entirely sure the weight of the positive message in the song but I'm more or less inclined to follow it ;). Rocket also shows up on JXL's cover of Siouxsie and the Banshees "Cities in Dust" and lends a certain angst that this version would've desperately been lacking had she not been there. There's also plenty of other goodies on this CD, and there's stuff for everyone from the more trip-trance oriented fan to heavy electro dance-rock to straight up bangin industrial. Overall "Booming Back At You" is EASILY the best dance music record we've heard in a LONG time. We got this one WAY early so the rest of you are gonna have to wait until March 11th to pick it up - but dont sweat it... Any self-respecting club DJ will be droppin those promos to wet your appetite. Just make sure you've got your helmet on when you hit the floor! -Kevy Kev