

COLUMBIA NATIVE BRINGS NEW SOUND TO INDIE SCENE

by IAN GRAYBILL

Toro y Moi, legend of Columbia's indie scene, now has 5 albums under his belt and is a well known name internationally for his distinctive chillwave sound. His new mixtape, "Samantha", is an interesting fusion of trap beats and dreamy ambient soundscapes that still contain remnants of his earlier work.

The tracks featuring Kool A.D. presents perhaps some of the catchiest songs of Toro's career. The atmospheric trap rhythms of 'Real Love' create the perfect environment for Kool A.D.'s staccato, Future-esque vocals, and the eerie, bouncing beat on 'That Night' making room for his ironic lines about cold cuts and donuts. The ambient tracks draw you in with curiosity and the catchy beats satisfy the building tension.

Samantha opens with 'The Power of Now', a dark, atmospheric track with chopped up, washed out vocals. Toro's classic chillwave synths swell in the background as a acid synth bass squelches on top of the beat. 'Late' is where you get the first hint the trap rhythms prominent throughout the tape. Little yelps are layered over the drums, giving personality to the beat. Grimy organ chords come in behind Kool A.D.'s catchy and vibing, but constantly changing verse. 'Us 2' starts off with a dreamy, crystalline digital synth that you might hear on a Shigeo Sekito track. The lead synth and keys swell to create a dreamy texture, and they melt into the more grounded beat and synth-bass.

The unique sound of the tape is topped off by consistent lyrical themes that give it a bit of a concept. This is thrown right in your face on the track 'Want', with a sample from The Notebook's "What do you want" scene where a Noah yells at his girlfriend. The dramatic sample and vocals in this song set a pretty serious tone for the tape, and the mood ends up staying



consistent with a lot of Toro's earlier work such as "Anything in Return" and "Underneath the Pine." Overall, the mixtape is a really interesting take on modern trap with deep, psychedelic soundscapes that will leave you looking further into the sound with each listen.