Øresund Space Collective – Kybalion: A cyber-dimensional way to experience music

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1. INTRODUCTION

With the development of technology, 10,000 songs entered our pockets in the smart devices we carry. However, in the process we have lost the beauty of the connection between the album artwork and music. The use of mixed reality technologies carries the great the great potential to not only bring the magic of album artwork, but also provide new ways to experience both the music and the album art together.

2. ØRESUND SPACE COLLECTIVE-KYBALION

Oresund Space Collective is a psychedelic space Rock band that is formed by musicians from Denmark, Sweden and USA. The band offers improvised space rock journeys to their audience, and have been taking people on these spacey explorations for the past 20 years. Their new album is dedicated to Kybalion-Hermetic Teaching of Ancient Egypt and Greece.

We designed a whole new album experience where the entire album artwork is interactive. This provides the audience the possibility to not only listen to the songs but also to learn about the Hermetic teachings of Thoth by interacting with the album artwork, using a mixed reality (MR) experience that people can download on their mobile devices.

Kybalion explores the cosmic principles that govern the universe. The front cover (Figure 1) contains 7 symbols that represent each principle that are explored in Kybalion. Each symbol on the frame is a virtual button that activates the experience and opens a portal on the cover artwork, from which the knowledge of the principle comes through.

Figure 1: Kybalion album cover.

Figure 2: Album artwork provides portals when viewed through mixed reality.

Figure 3: Kybalion gatefold artwork, which provides a portal when viewed in Mixed Reality.

3. INTERACTIVE ALBUM ARTWORK

The gatefold of the vinyl or the poster that comes with the CD contains the main portal into the world of Kybalion (Figure 3). Here, the audience is invited to place their mobile device inside a mixed reality cardboard device and immerse themselves through the portal that opens. When the audience opens this portal, they get transported into the album artwork. By changing from mixed reality to virtual reality, the audience find themselves literally inside the album artwork

As the knowledge of Kybalion was brought to Ancient Egypt on Emerald Tablets by Thoth, here the audience finds 8 different Emerald Tablets. Each tablet represents a song from the album. When the audience chooses a tablet, the portal opens and they get transformed into that specific song's virtual reality experience. In other words, the audience enters the album, chooses an emerald tablet and listens to that song on the tablet whilst enjoying a virtual cosmic ride.

The virtual reality experience explores the teachings of Atlantean Priest Thoth. From the rise of Atlantean civilization to space travel and consciousness expansion, each tablet offers a very unique exploration of ancient wisdom and traditions through modern day civilization's 'digital' technology.

The audience is of course also welcome to listen to the album in the traditional way, by playing the vinyl on record player. When doing this, they can also unravel the holograms that are on the each record.

Figure 4: The vinyl album also hides holograms, which can be revealed while listening to the music.

4. SUMMARY

At EVA London 2019, the Kybalion album and mixed reality experience will be demonstrated for the attendees. Kybalion offers a whole, totally new form of experiencing music and album artwork. Our aim is not only to bring back the tradition of beauty in the connection between the album artwork and the music, but also to offer a new way of entering into the storytelling part of the music. In Kybalion, the audience is invited to learn about the Hermetic Teachings, whilst listening to psychedelic space jams in a Cyber Dimension!

5. REFERENCES

Øresund Space Collective (2018) Kybalion. <https://oresundspacecollective.bandcamp.com/album/kybalion> (retrieved 10 April 2019).