

twst

Welcome to the realm of pure imagination: in their new ep *twst0002*, twst ascends the corporeal body IRL and online.

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Somewhere in between London and the Internet, there's twst. They try conversing with machines, opening up a human heart to examine emotions hiding there and deciphering the equivalent of love online. Or at least, we imagine so listening to their new EP *twst0002*. The introspective pop translates the reality of being a person in the digital era, trading kisses for likes and looking for alliances in unlikely places.

twst first popped onto our radar with 'Girl on Your TV', where they documented their life through a video diary. They stayed for good with their debut EP *twst0001*, engaging in an outward conversation with the socio-political world and self. The real twst story starts in an isolated Welsh valley where they grew up. Out of institutional education, they had plenty of time to learn various subjects, including music and production. "I always feel like I create from that place inside of myself that I created when I was a teenager", they say.

Self-programmed, twst never spares any parts of their persona when working on new material, especially the just-released EP *twst0002*. Everything is available for examination. "There is a sense of yearning and a longing for acknowledgement and acceptance. Much like the space I created for myself to live in during *0001*, I feel like *0002* was creating a new space for myself to exist and dream into. This feels like somewhere between Earth and unknown but somewhere where I can feel accepted in my identity and beliefs", twst confides. The artist set out into the uncharted with the best collaborators they could wish for, from Eden - their long-term co-writer - producers Danio, Lauren Aquilina, Marcus Anderson and a quirky visionary, Clarence Clarity. "Creating this EP with some of my favourite people and artists was SUCH a special experience", twst sums up.

twst0002 is a paradoxical combination of cyber-surrealism and futurism, inspired by anything from parasocial relationships to the musician's little brother, family and friends. It resounds with an echo of Ursula K. Le Guin's feminist sci-fi and commentary on the co-existence of technology and nature sparked by a poem, 'All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace'. Like neo-Alice in Wonderland, twst goes down the rabbit hole of search of sense in a concept of god and post-structuralism.

"With *0002* existing in a fantasy space, in post-structuralism, the meaning of reality is unclear, and the ideas of reality and fantasy are mixed. This theory was a really important

underpinning and guiding force for the concept of this EP. For example, many of the lyrics on this record deal with core human emotions but ultimately exist in otherworldly spaces".

Since a young age, twst found solace in the unknown. "When you've dealt with a set of circumstances in life where you feel like you don't belong or feel comfortable, the only way to transcend that is imagination", twst says. "I absolutely think art can ascend the corporeal body. Sometimes that's all we have".

Adrift in one of their favourite songs, 'Pure Imagination', sampled in 'Most Viewed', twst set a new tone for the EP. Instead of viewing digitalisation as disturbing, they embrace new expressions of affection. "For example, the notion of a technology is often viewed as dystopian, like a hive mind, which can be reimagined as a harmonious community founded on love. With 'Most Viewed', I aimed to juxtapose the deeply human desire to be seen by someone with the manifestation of that love in the form of digital currency, such as coins or TikTok views. In today's climate, these metrics often serve as a measure of one's value, and this contrast highlights the shifting landscape of human connection and worth in our digital era", twst comments.

"In my view, we've reached a point where our integration with technology is so profound that we've essentially embraced the very technology that once provoked concerns, much like the apprehensions portrayed in works such as 'Serial Experiments Lain'. As a result, it seems important to explore its potential for utopian outcomes". twst doesn't deny possibilities of harnessing positive visions from social media platforms.

After all, they thrive in online communities like their discord *Hikikomori Bb's*. "I love being able to share snippets and demos with my discord community and ask what they think. I think that's way lovelier than getting feedback from four middle-aged men at a record label that really have no idea about what your fans might like". They like to cut to the chase. Rightly so.

As enticing and integral as the cyber is, twst also endures its dark side, best portrayed in 'Upgrade', a too familiar and heart-blowing song about the need for constant level up to meet ever-changing pressures imposed by literally



Leg warmers & Ribbons DOLOMEDES
Socks ALINA SPAS
Shorts CHIARA SERENA FAIRFAX
Corset MARINA EERIE
Hood R.LIE
Charms KARTHUR BUILDS & C.SOLIS
Hair Pieces C.SOLIS
Bag STYLIST'S OWN



everything around us, including ourselves. "About twice a month, I have such a crazy urge to return to nature and detach myself from being terminally online and constantly connected. I feel the way we're intertwined with technology is super overwhelming. Our brains aren't really fit for this massive influx of information every second, so yeah, it can definitely feel like a curse at times", they say.

Luckily, twst doesn't succumb to viruses like that. They hack right back to reality. The truth is that twst is one of the most intriguing names on the London alternative scene. Their ethereally energetic sonic voyeur almost forces the word hyper-pop into our mouths. twst disagrees. "Hyper-pop transcends genre classification; I see it as more of a community. I wouldn't pigeonhole my music into the hyper-pop label. In the last couple of years, it has felt like any electronically tinged, slightly quirky-sounding pop music was dubbed hyper-pop", they laugh. Though steering away from definitions, twst is first to sing awe of the label that is the very foundation of hyper-pop, PC Music: "We salute the enduring legacy of Personal Computer Music!!!!!!!" As the 10 years of their glorious rule and ingenious musical revolution concludes, the label's influence lives on in the next generation of gifted artists, including twst.

Whether twst will be the most viewed, liked and shared artist

doesn't matter as much. They already gained something grander — thousands of twst micro-verses taking their own course in the lives of everyone touched by their music, either online or IRL. What if they had a choice to abandon the body and become a digital entity? "No, probably not! I really value human existence and that's really what I try and explore mostly in my work — the intricate and nuanced existence of humanity and the effects that technology has on that", twst states.

Music and technology have always been intertwined in a symbiotic relationship, interacting and influencing each other. Machines evolved more ingrained into our subconscious than ever, so we need to understand what it means for us — not only as a species but as individuals who try to nest themselves in patchworked pieces of meaning. What's next? A mystery. That's twst's domain.

If every record is a stab at creating a new utopia, *twst0002* is one that the listeners decrypt for themselves. twst leaves us with the clues in the lyrics of the final track, 'Was I Ever Alone': "In the morning, we will all be seen / Giving me calling lift me to machines / In the sky glass, they plant blossom trees — advertising! In the painting, angels buy their dreams / Is it heaven or somewhere in between? In the haze, I see faces that I love — advertising!"

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