Haymarket Riot EP short but sweet

By Jason Hardy
Staff writer

In a market flooded with new, up-and-coming bands, it is easy for groups to get swallowed by the shelves of America's record stores. But despite only having a combined nine songs available for musical consumption, Chicago's Haymarket Riot refuses to be just another name on the shelf.

The group will be releasing its second EP later this summer, but judging from the quality of its first self-titled five song EP and the number of live shows it has played in Lincoln during the past year, many fans probably wish it was a full-length.

Nevertheless, this four-song, post-punk collection is more layered, tight and connected than a lot of full-lengths.

It also has an aggressive and spontaneous energy that Kevin J. Frank, the group's guitarist, said was probably a result of the way Haymarket Riot goes about writing songs.

"We really keep it open," he said. "There's really no set way of doing it. I prefer more of an open-ended arena. That way it offers each member of the band to contribute on a musical level. There's really no main songwriter. It's all a group effort."

He said the group's unstructured approach to writing songs helped the band to continue creative song writing without the redundancy of just one person's musical input. Each song is an intricate weaving of elements that show strong signs of unselfish collaboration.

One of Haymarket Riot's strongest assets is its ability to pair driving robust and repetitious riffs and melodies with ambient breakdowns and crescendos.

Frank said the group was very dedicated to including musical elements that make each song stronger, regardless of what those elements are.

"All four of us make a conscious effort to realize that the song comes first," he said. "We all follow where the song tells us to go."

The EP's final track, "Super Network," is an incredible ending to a short but powerful collection of songs. It combines the essence of Haymarket Riot with flawless precision, creating beautiful subtleties that grow into focused power and catchy repetition.

The only thing wrong with this EP is that it's an EP. Luckily, the band plans on recording a full-length sometime next year.

REVIEW

Haymarket Riot

TITLE: As of yet untitled EP
LABEL: Divot Records
GRADE: A
FIVE WORDS: Melodic, powerful four-song offering

Bemis opens library for public perusal

By Emily Pyeatt
Staff writer

Tucked away inside the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha is a small library packed with more than 2,000 books.

This library, the Clare Haas Howard Art Research Library, recently has accumulated more than 300 books to contribute to the collection.

Amanda McIntyre, assistant to the executive director of the Bemis Center, said all the books are art-related.

Saturday night, the Bemis Center is holding "An Art Book Affair." The event gives the public a chance to browse the library's collection and perhaps purchase one of the 300 additions.

Yet instead of purchasing the books for ownership, they can then be donated to the library.

"We buy books all over the place," McIntyre said. "And since the Bemis is a non-profit organization, we are having this exhibit to give the public a chance to view our newest additions and purchase the books to benefit the library."

Another exhibition about the art of bookmaking will also be on display.

The exhibition, "Books: Beyond Definition – Works from Regional Fine Presses and Book Arts Studios" features art by students of fine arts presses, hand-crafted books by local artists and regional fine press literary editions.

The first group consists of literary prose and poetry fine presses, the second of student's works in the fine arts books press program at UNO and the final group of artists' books.

"Books: Beyond Definition" will remain on exhibition at the Bemis Center through May 5.

PREVIEW

An Art Book Affair, Fundraiser and Exhibition

WHERE: The Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, 724 S. 12th St., Omaha
WHEN: Saturday, April 29 7 - 10 p.m.
COST: $10 at the door
THE SKINNY: The Bemis Center opens its doors to provide a chance to browse and buy new books.

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