



Athenian moments



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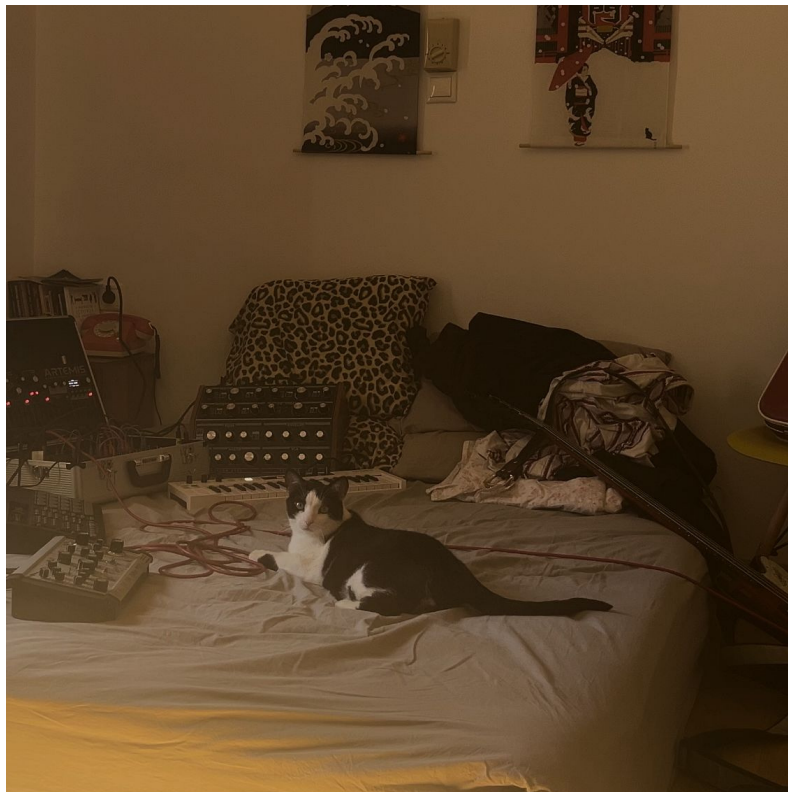
The evening sun sinks over the ancient city: Athens is a place that remains full of life and activity well into the night. Cafés and neighborhoods like Ψυρρή (Psyri) are filled with people talking, exchanging ideas, laughing, making plans. *Athenian Sunset*, by contrast, seeks solitude: the EP is an experiment by artist Yiannis Diakoumakos, known for his project Porcelain Dancer.

Four tracks make up the release, created within a time frame of “32 hours” (Bandcamp). In a self-imposed experiment, the singer isolated himself completely and focused entirely on the music. The result is four remarkable pieces. “The entire project is shaped around the concept of an empty space: the

silence, the space, and the thoughts that fill it when one is alone with oneself. The tracks represent how I felt in those moments.”

It is a daring experiment that forces the artist back onto himself. Isolation can also lead to madness—at least, that is what we have known since Stefan Zweig’s *The Royal Game*, where the protagonist Dr. B is saved only by playing chess against himself, albeit at a high cost.

Yiannis, however, creates worlds and says he felt rejuvenated, by no means fatigued. “It felt a bit like one of those therapy sessions in which therapist and patient are the same person. The hardest part is always the beginning. Once I have started, I do not allow myself to interrupt my work. The crucial moment is when I decide that a piece is finished.”



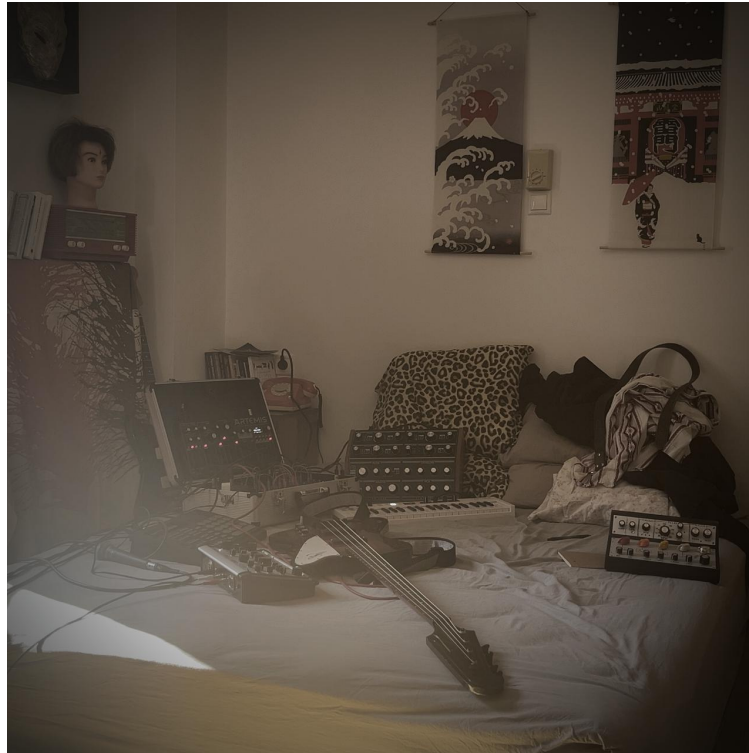
Listeners are thus invited to spend those 32 hours with Yiannis and immerse themselves in the four tracks that emerged. The opening piece, *Shrine*, marks his entry into the space: “My personal shrine is creation. It does not have to be music alone, but rather the act of creating something in general.”

The track *Black Cat* offers a glimpse into the room where Yiannis wrote the EP: above his bed hangs a Japanese scroll depicting a winter day and a woman with an umbrella, standing in front of an izakaya or an old market stall. A small black cat observes the scene, and the two inwardly solitary figures exchange a knowing glance. It is an image that radiates great calm, Yiannis notes.

Spaces are also central to the final track, *Strangers*, which deals with agoraphobia: “I pay your cost with torture.” While everyone knows the feeling of being overwhelmed in a public square—surrounded by people who stare, attempt small talk, or even seek closer contact—agoraphobia intensifies this discomfort into something pathological. Yiannis’ observations are precise and rendered in poetic language: “In a sea of restless eyes / Strangers in the night / They love or fight.”

Those who wish to lose themselves in the sounds of an Athenian sunset will find a fitting companion in *Porcelain Dancer*. The EP delivers four pieces of finely crafted darkwave and post-punk. From 32 hours

of solitude, something enduring has emerged.



Athenian Sunset (2026)

1. Shrine
2. Black Cat
3. Youth
4. Strangers