



Photo Credit: Ex-Hyena

Ex-Hyena go deep into the multilayered void of love with ‘Spiral Down’

The subversive Boston duo returns with a hypnotic new single set for February 2nd release via Re:Mission Entertainment

[OUT NOW: Listen to ‘Spiral Down’ via Re:Mission Entertainment](#)

The 2nd single off Ex-Hyena’s forthcoming third album ‘A Kiss of the Mind’ will include a standalone remix from MORIS BLAK. Both versions available together on Bandcamp via Pre-Sale

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BOSTON, MA [January 9, 2024] -- Ex-Hyena travel into the complex, multilayered void of love with ‘Spiral Down,’ the 2nd single from the forthcoming 3rd album, *A Kiss of the Mind*, and their debut for the respected Oklahoma-based darkwave record label. The single arrives on February 2nd, and will be

followed by a beautifully chaotic, Industrially-charged remix of the song by MORIS BLAK on February 23rd. Both songs can be pre-ordered as a package on the Re:Mission Bandcamp

With 'Spiral Down', the dark electronic duo (Reuben Bettsak and Bo Barringer) follow their propulsive and driving first single 'In Slow Motion' with a beat heavy, minimal and dynamic beast of a song. "The mess we're in feels like deep love" is at the root of the song's chorus. Why is love so complex? Why are relationships with the people we love the most, so difficult, yet so rewarding at the same time? The song explores some of these themes and explores both the pleasure and the pain at the heart of love.

Since its inception in 2020, surfacing through the haze of a global pandemic and illuminated by the city's darkest corners, Ex-Hyena has delivered a steady and prolific beat across underground dance floors, with two albums (2021's *Artificial Pulse* and 2022's *Moon Reflections*), a remix album (2023's *Moon Reflections Remixed*), a handful of singles and EPs, and collaborations with Control I'm Here, Horrorhaus, BlakLight, Pleasure Policy, Jackson VanHorn, Denial Waits, Blood Handsome, The Mystic Underground, Maduro, and others.

Prolific by design and mysterious by nature, the project has been lauded globally by the likes of Post-Punk.com ("a luxurious combination of shadow and sound"), Brutal Resonance, White Light // White Heat, Side-line, Blood Makes Noise, Darkness Calling, ReGen, Obscura Undead, Wintermüte, Flyflew, and countless others.

With "Spiral Down," Ex-Hyena's distinctive, dystopian-tinged sound, which charges into a blackhole of our chaotic present - reality mixed with our collective uncertain futures, once again delves into a mirror-web of introspection, doubt, confusion, yearning, loneliness, light, darkness, and beauty. "One of the main reasons we make music and art is that it's therapeutic and healing. Through a song or story, we can attempt to process very complex things in our lives," says Bettsak. "The lyrics-'In molten love I found your kisses, where shadows form and for the season. It feels like pain, it feels like pleasure,' explore the ying/yang at the root of love." "I think love is beautiful and ghastly at the same time. I think it's ultimately worth it, but can sometimes feel like a deep pit of chaos and confusion. And it's not just love with people close to us, but also in regards to love of ourselves" says Bettsak.

Produced and mixed by Barringer, and Mastered by Adam Stillson at Decade Music Studio, 'Spiral Down' has recently become the opening song in the bands' current live set. Incorporating swirling keyboard textures, massive speaker-rumbling bass, and propulsive hypnotic beats, 'Spiral Down' catapults the listener into an adventure of sound that builds and builds and continues to pull back Ex-Hyena's sonic curtain to display colorful shades of the project's dark energy. It's another delicious offering from the upcoming nine song album *A Kiss of the Mind*. "The more music we record, the closer we get to stumbling into a fully realized vision. 'Spiral Down' is a journey, it feels more expansive. At the beginning of the track, it starts out in a much brighter and bouncier place than anything we've recorded, but as it continues it goes deeper and deeper into the menace," says Barringer.

Bettsak adds: "A lot of the songs from *A Kiss of the Mind*, including 'Spiral Down', deal with the challenge of communicating with one another. It can be so hard to understand each other even when

we know each other so well. It can be difficult to understand each other even when we know the same language and this modern world makes it even harder with all the distractions.”

The MORIS BLAK remix of ‘Spiral Down’ ramps things up into heavy, hyper, pounding beats which enable the melodies to shine while displaying the expanding excellence of the MORIS BLAK signature universe/sound. A music video directed by Bettsak accompanies the ‘Spiral Down (MORIS BLAK Remix)’. Dancer Ava Grebe expresses the two themes of pleasure and pain through dramatic movements. JST-N’s projections as a backdrop, Ava spins, twirls and shakes exploring the two sides of love through dance.

From here, the beat rolls on, and Ex-Hyena’s future-noir styling would not be complete without a look ahead. The band’s 3rd album, ‘A Kiss of the Mind’ is slated for early 2024 release, and will see the band playing many shows in support of the album.

“Essentially, we are just thrilled to share the new album with everyone, work with this great label, play shows, meet great people, and collaborate,” says Bettsak.

Because it’s those moments, viewed and absorbed at whatever speed they play out, that shape the world in front of us.

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‘Spiral Down’ production credits:

Ex-Hyena is Bo Barringer and Reuben Bettsak

‘Spiral Down’ is the second single from the forthcoming 3rd Ex-Hyena album, *A Kiss of the Mind*

Written by Reuben Bettsak and Bo Barringer

Recorded by Bo Barringer and Reuben Bettsak

Produced and mixed by Bo Barringer

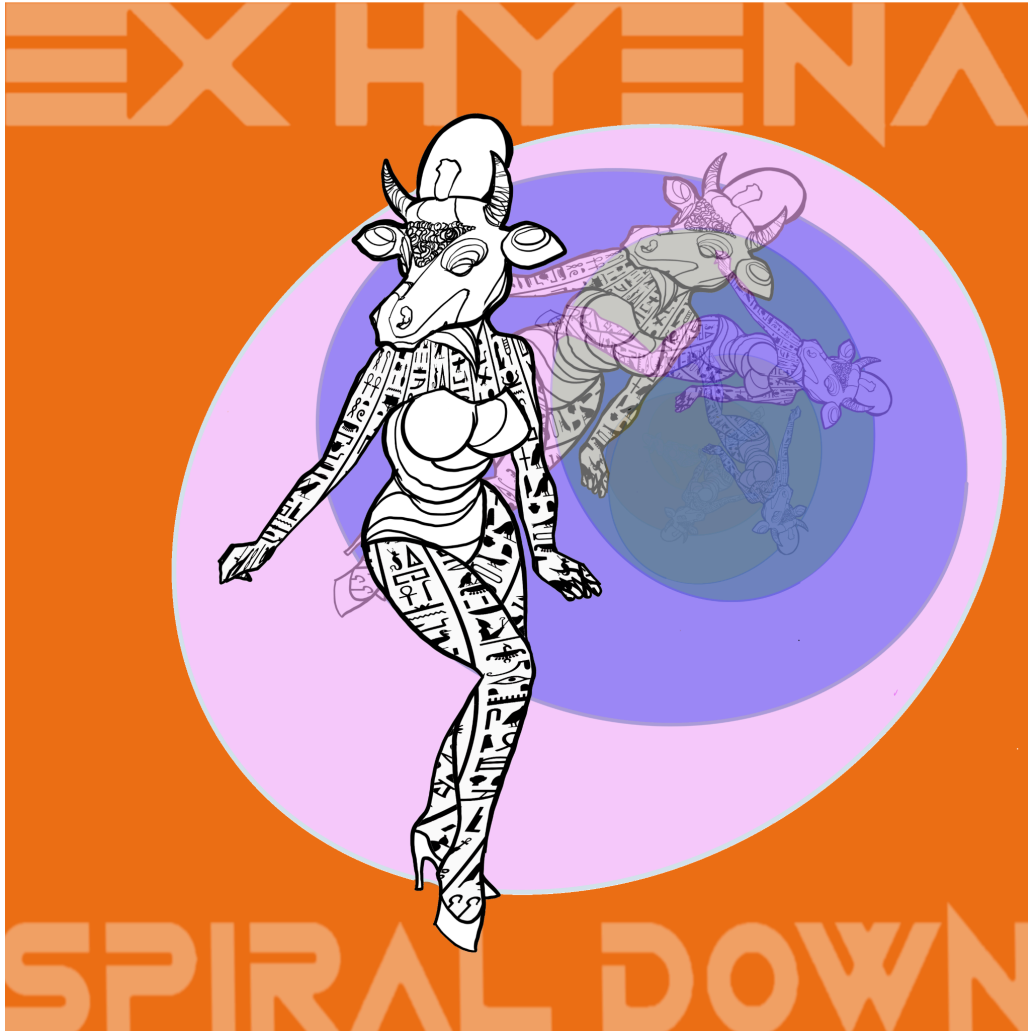
Remixed by MORIS BLAK

Mastered by Adam Stillson at Decade Music Studio

Artwork by Ian Adams

Released by Re:Mission Entertainment

'Spiral Down' single artwork:



Art Design by Ian Adams

Ex-Hyena 2023 artist bio:

Ex-Hyena is human psychology set to music.

Since its inception in 2020, surfacing through the haze of a global pandemic and illuminated by the city's darkest corners, the prolific collaboration between longtime Boston music conspirators Reuben Bettsak and Bo Barringer has quickly made a name for itself during a time when a project initially set to create a tense, neurotic soundtrack for a far-off dystopian landscape suddenly felt all too real. The scenes that play out across Ex-Hyena's stark brand of world-building, where the detachment from an uneasy society on edge is only matched by the residual effects of our fractured psyche, are chronicled by expressive lyricisms and a minimal, propulsive electronic music foundation. Ex-Hyena taps into the doom and gloom of our current climate while also existing on its own sonic plane.

After instantly declaring arrival with the detached cool and mummified swagger of "Shades," debut album *Artificial Pulse* arrived in the frigid spell of New England's unforgiving 2021 winter, capturing the sound of a mutant disco dance party where cold electronics and warm emotion sprawl across a nocturnal dystopia of underground electro. The debut effort earned praise from the global underground community, with *Brutal Resonance* placing it in its Top 5 albums of 2021, and even broke through to the mainstream, as Ex-Hyena earned a Dance/Electronic Artist of the Year nomination in the 2021 Boston Music Awards.

But where the acclaimed 2021 debut album *Artificial Pulse* danced through the shadows of reality, from waking up in dystopian landscapes to riding highways with biker gangs, 2022's *Moon Reflections* (*Brutal Resonance Records/HUSH LTD*) bridged the physical into the psychological. *Moon Reflections* dives into the deep, murky waters of memories, it falls down a void of nightmares, it experiences extreme loneliness, and it also highlights a few characters via cinematic scenes from the Ex-Hyena future world.

But the beat did not stop there. In fact, it fueled Barringer and Bettsak's dedicated approach to collaboration and community far beyond its staid New England borders. Ex-Hyena may be Boston-based, but it continues to position itself as a global project, bringing its city's scene to others around the world. Delivering a steady and prolific beat across underground dance floors, collaborations and remix exchanges with the likes of *Hororhaus*, *The Mystic Underground*, *BlakLight*, *Pleasure Policy*, *Jackson VanHorn*, *Denial Waits*, *Blood Handsome*, *RM Hendrix*, *Maduro*, *Sawtooth*, and others. The collaborations led to a 19-track remix album, *Moon Reflections Remixed*, released in 2023.

With a third album titled *A Kiss of the Mind* forthcoming, Ex-Hyena unveiled signing to Oklahoma's *Re:Mission* entertainment for the release of the record's first single at the end of 2023. The pulsating "In Slow Motion," landed on various 2023 best of lists and was accompanied by a *Child of Night* remix, which flips the song upside down and turns up the dark synth-pop elements.

With 'Spiral Down', the dark electronic duo follow their propulsive and driving first single 'In Slow Motion' with a beat heavy, minimal and dynamic beast of a song. "The mess we're in feels like deep

love” is at the root of the song’s chorus. Why is love so complex? Why are relationships with the people we love the most, so difficult, yet so rewarding at the same time? The song explores some of these themes and explores both the pleasure and the pain at the heart of love.

For a band immersed in darkness, the future remains illuminated. Ex-Hyena have, in a short time, developed a captivating, strobe-lit live show, sharing the stage with the likes of Korine, Haunt Me, Traitors, Blood Handsome, Harsh Symmetry, Komrads, and many others. And the project has garnered significant global radio play and alternative press for its distinctive, voyeuristic sound, having been heard and/or featured on Post-Punk.com (“a luxurious combination of shadow and sound”), Brutal Resonance, White Light // White Heat, Blood Makes Noise, Darkness Calling, ReGen, Obscura Undead, Wintermüte, Flyflew, and countless other mindful purveyors of the dark editorial arts and radio-ready transmissions.

Human praise for Ex-Hyena:

“Ex-Hyena experiment with staccato, Hertztones, hip-hop-inspired beats and complex rhythms, bolstering the project deeper into sonic territories that are impossible to label. They crafted a shadowy blend of industrial, disco, and psych-rock with synthpop.” [_Post-Punk.com](#)

“In Slow Motion” has that perfect goth sound we expect from Ex-Hyena. It’s that perfect mid-tempo song that just revels in how moody it is. “In Slow Motion” is not a cheery song at all. It’s dark, and a little disturbing, but you’re still going to want to dance to it.” [If it’s too Loud](#)

“Hypnotic and swirling like a techno organic tornado, “In Slow Motion” is anything but slow as it continues to swell in size with layer upon layer of synthetic sheen added to the mix until the whole thing is ready practically burst.” [ROCK and ROLL FABLES](#)

“The most imaginative dream the space age has ever known. Moon Reflections is retro-infused peerance into the future. Laced with synth-pop and darkwave, Ex-Hyena constructs tales of synthetic nightmares and floating euphorias. At times this album is dark dream-pop, and other times glitchy, chill-out music with bits of strange melancholy. ‘Fractured’ most exemplifies this interaction, with its chilly mechanistic vocals and spare beats. ‘Nightmare Pills’ is another solid track that lends to a very cinematic universe of a world gone mad. Probe 7, over and out.” [_Procession Magazine](#)

“...a must-listen for all of you dark disco electronic freaks. They play almost synthwave music but with a quite peculiar twist and are keen on the new wave approach to things in life, which means in their 10 new songs it is impossible you won’t find (a lot I hope) things that have passed through your vast mind. Ex-Hyena likely have heard (y)our thoughts and they did put it all down orchestrated and stardusted.” [_White Light//White Heat](#)

“Some interesting and evocative shades from Boston’s Ex-Hyena on their new single. Despite its slinky lope, ‘Capture The Stills’ never lets you get comfortable in the groove, peppering in smoothly sculpted but disquieting programming and percussive tics. We often talk about the lush atmospheres of darkwave, but here you can see how familiar and commonly welcoming darkwave dancefloor sounds can be given an uncanny and alienating edge.” [**I Die:You Die**](#)

“Ex-Hyena’s ‘Artificial Pulse’ gave me a bit of a shock when I listened to it... An electronic album inspired by both science-fiction and cyberpunk lore alike. But when I clicked that play button I didn’t get huge bass drops and four-on-the-floor dance rhythms. I was rather greeted with minimal electro, darkpop, and sometimes disco-inspired beats... [it’s] an album that could easily play in a futuristic, smokey bar.”
[**Brutal Resonance’s Top 10 albums of 2021 \(Number 5\)**](#)

“If, like us, you’re into dystopian vibes, ‘Blade Runner’-esque color palettes, and hypnotic dance tracks, look no further than ‘Shades,’ the debut single by Ex-Hyena.” [**Darkness Calling**](#)

“‘Motorfreaks’ presents the band’s dark disco style, with themes revolving around the perilous and lawless dystopian world of a future that is perhaps nearer than expected” [**ReGen Magazine**](#)

“This twilight hallucination resonates as the shadowy side of Depeche Mode and the enigmatic darkwave murk of The Soft Moon. The iterating synth-riff at work here gets under your skin without asking. The atmosphere is impending, the tone is obscure, the color is black. All you need for a sonic nightmare.” [**Turn Up The Volume**](#)

“It’s a hypnotic and minimal album without a dry moment in between songs. Rather than focusing on a million different layers to generate a unique sound, Ex-Hyena utilizes a select set of electronic notes without coming out as overbearing. The beats are meticulous and well-crafted, which forced me to really focus on what was going on; it’s this type of analyzing that I find most amusing in a song. Something different, something breathing, and something so out there that it encapsulates my attention.” [**Brutal Resonance**](#)

“Bursting with an obsessive humming throbbing bassline, crispy mechanical electro rhythms, and off-tempo tight percussive patterns rambling bouncily through the neon-lit dark night, stabbed by vexed flashing glaring swathes of analog synths, while distressed stealthy dual vocals blend shady secret whispers, with high quivering mania, to unleash intense dramatic characters from the seedy underworld of ‘Motorfreaks.’” [**White Light/White Heat**](#)

The unmistakable sound of Ex-Hyena has been seen and heard on:

1st 3 Magazine, A Moment of Darkness, BICT Radio, Backpacks And Magazines (WMBR), Barcelona Alternative Nights, Bay State Rock, Black Room Radio, Blood Makes Noise, Boston Emissions, Brian Carpenter’s Free Association (WZBC), BumbleBee Radio, Christian’s Cosmic Corner (Mark Skin Radio),

Darkness Calling, Electro Wave, ElektroSpank, Everything You Know Is Wrong on Salem State Radio, Flyfew Radio, Fused Wireless, Fused Wireless, Future Robot Lab, Heresey, If It's Too Loud, Infectious Unease, Jay Breitling's Parcheesi Redux, Johnny Normal's Synthetic Sunday Show, Loud Cities, Mechanical Breakdown (KEXP), Odilon's Grip's Edgy Electronic Beats, Oh Hello Boston, On The Town with Mikey D (WMFO), Procession, Radio Black Room (Italy), Radio Coolio (Canada), Radio Oscura (Downtown Radio), Rodon FM, Screaming for Years, Songs from the Floorboard, Sound Obscura, Stuck In Thee Garage, Subculture Shock, Synth-Pop Fantatic, Synthentral, The Music Bugle, This Is Not A Show, Tinnitist, Side-line, Transmissions NJ, Virtual Detention (WZBC), Vox Sinistra, Wave Dimension, Wave Press, White Light//White Heat, Wintermute, and other fine independent outlets that are not run by rampant corporate fuckery.

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