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## Filastine Dirty Bomb

Filastine delivers his second album, a fresh and uncompromising musical bombardment.

By Rosenthal Whim

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'Music is the weapon....music is the future...there is a laptop...making a dirty bomb...'

Filastine makes his message clear on the track *Marxa* as he discharges some highly contagious sounds via his laptop, radiating to all parts. This album is like a bomb going off that will infect all those within reach. Taking his influences from the broadest and most punishing of tour schedules, Filastine's sound is a vast melting pot. It's clear that he's absorbed the cultural scenery wherever he's been — produced over three years and across a dozen countries, *Dirty Bomb* references the diverse musical landscapes of North Africa, Bollywood, the street scenes of Central America, the cities of Japan, and thriving dubstep communities worldwide. Beat construction is never less than top notch, whatever the tempo, with the atypical sounds and instrumentation enhanced by lyrics delivered in a rich variety of language, the result of on-site collaborations with the likes of aboriginal Australian Wire MC, Japan's ECD and teen gypsy La Perla.

The mood though remains relentlessly urban and underground, drawing together a tangled web of helter-skelter beats and rhymes, cavernous and scattergun bass drops and incendiary vocal rampages. From sound system bangers such as *No Lock No key*, to softer and more melodic female vocal tracks and sweet instrumentals like the *Sinking Ship* and *Blung*, the tracks are often broken by snatches of news footage or documentary sound bites. These somewhat subliminal messages are carefully edited together and confer an added dimension to proceedings — *They Move Like Somnambulists*, for instance, refers to how technology provides, yet sterilises us, enabling the human race to go about their lives as if sleepwalking.

With one ear to the ground but the other firmly in the gutter, Filastine has delivered a musical bombardment of an album that is fresh and uncompromising and comes highly recommended.

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