

# SALT

**ISSUE ELEVEN**

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**ALEISTER X/BATALJ/CARDIACS  
GIVE PRAISE /NOD AND SMILE  
SIXSIXSIXTIES/WRESTLING**



## NOD AND SMILE RECORDS

Nod and Smile is the brainchild of Andy Perseponko, a man from Philadelphia who, via his long running zine "Nice Pooper" has proven himself to be a man of impeccable taste. The four records released via Nod and Smile so far demonstrate his cultivated sensibilities ye further: supple psychedelic rock from Numinous Eye; gleeful power pop from Photon Band; a beguiling folk/psych split between Japan's 20 Guilders and Belgium's We Have Heaven; and a wonderful dose of Japanese psych-rock delirium from Acid Mothers Temple. But the ace in the pack is "Half Speed Mastered", the astonishing debut album from the extraordinary Aleister X (interviewed elsewhere in this issue). We speak at length to Andy, a longtime friend and supporter of "SALT" about his exciting new venture into independent record label-dom. Enjoy....

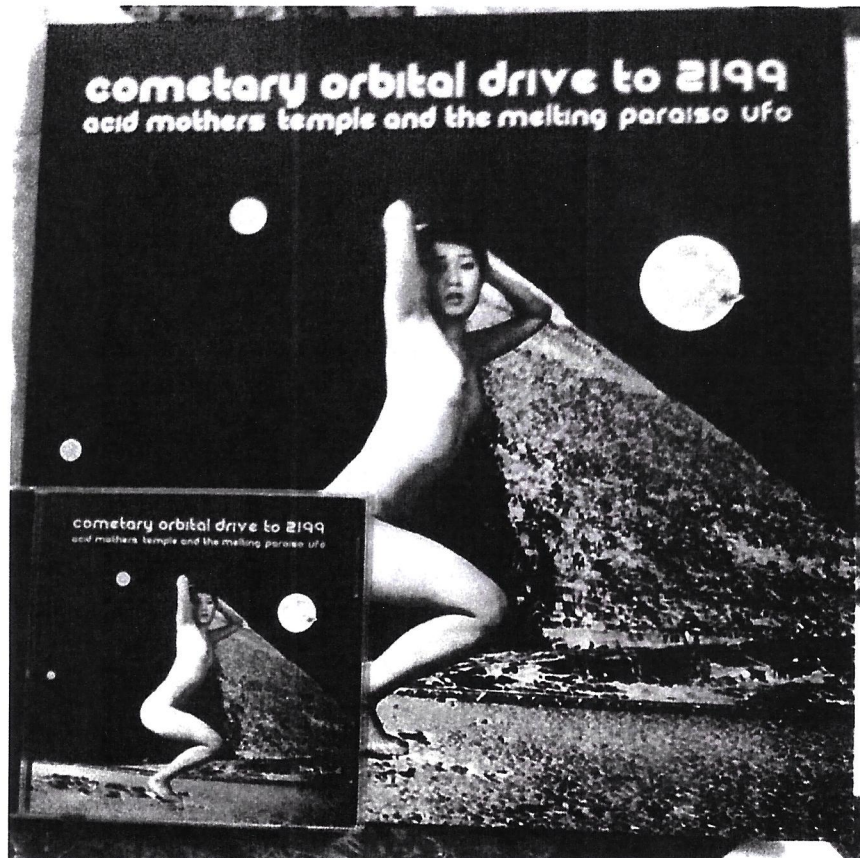
### When and where do you first set up Nod and Smile Records?

I have always wanted to do a label and release music, as I have no talent of my own, but didn't really have the opportunity until the last few years. I helped a bit with Mike at Prophase Records, but really wanted to do my own thing. I work for a distributor so I was in the right place at the right time and after a few months of hemming and hawing Nod and Smile was formed. The name comes from my lack of communication skills with Japanese artists.

### What were your original intentions for setting up the label?



I just wanted to hear bands I like on vinyl and give them something to sell on tour. As a huge Acid Mothers Temple fan, of course I wanted to work with them, but hearing 20 Guilders made me really want to put something out. The 20 Guilders/We Have Heaven split was supposed to be the first release on the label, but timing is not our strong suit and it is finally coming out in Dec 2013.



**What is the current roster of bands?**

No one is signed to Nod and Smile, we have just done one album deals so far. In 2013 we released (or will release) six records: Aleister X's "Half Speed Mastered", Acid Mothers Temple & The Melting Paraiso UFO's "Cometary Orbital Drive to 2199", Numinous Eye's "Clockwork Moon", Photon Band's "Pure Photonic Matter Vol 1", Suzuki Junzo's "Sings II" and the aforementioned 20 Guilders/WHH split. I hope to work with all of these folks again!

**How did you first come into contact with the amazing Aleister X? "Half Speed Mastered" is one of the most extraordinary records I've heard in 2013!**

Thanks, I love it and glad it has found an audience! A friend of a friend hipped me to Aleister's early demos, which were bleak, heavy and sample based. I was blown away, it was like something I always wanted but didn't know it, ya know; Mudhoney and Husker Du samples with ultra negative rhymes and vibes. I was hooked from the first listen. I hope some of that material gets released someday, but the sample clearance would be a nightmare. As Aleister developed into more of a songwriter and moved away from the samples, I got even more enthralled and got in touch with him. It was a blast to work with him and Andrew WK (who released the CD version on his Steev Mike label). Aleister X is a stone cold genius, his lyrics are brilliant, his melodies infectious and what he does is always surprising and unexpected. "Half Speed Mastered" is a classic and I can't wait to see what 2014 holds for him. I hope Nod and Smile is a part of it, regardless!

**What criteria do you use in choosing which bands to work with?**

So far, there has been a pool of artists that I have known for years from being a fan and fanzine writer that produce great music that I want to release. The last print issue of 'Nice Pooper' came out in 2000 included a compilation CDR and Acid Mothers Temple, the Photon Band and Mason Jones (Numinous Eye) were all on that comp. I have known Art Di Furia from the Photon Band for 20+ years and dig his music a lot, so once I decided to take the plunge, a Photon Band LP (with at least two more planned!) was a must. I haven't strayed too far from these friends in terms of releasing music. We are more or less on the same page. It is great to work with friends, but at the end of the day the jams are all top notch and that is the important part.

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**How does your output compare with other independent labels? What other music-based activities are you involved with besides Nod and Smile Records?**

As far as other labels, tough to say? I think most people who run labels start out just trying to release music they like listening to, and that is what I am doing. Regardless of genre, I think everything on Nod and Smile is psychedelic because the psychedelic state is in the mind/ear of the listener. I think the second Clipse album is one of the most psychedelic albums of all times, for instance. Beyond Nod and Smile, I used to do the fanzine and blog 'Nice Pooper' and have written for other fanzines, blogs, etc. My day job involves lots of music and film as well.

**Which of your releases are you most proud of?**

A very tough question, each release has something personal and exciting to me. That said, it is a joy to release Suzuki Junzo's first piece of vinyl. He has a wide range of styles, from acoustic blues to drone



to a full electric band rock sound. Junzo has lots of solo CDs and releases with Miminokoto, 20 Guilders, etc, but I think "Sings II" is his best yet and it touches on all of the genres he works in.

**If you had the chance to sign any band or musician to Nod and Smile Records who would you choose?**

One thing I really want to do is a split single with Antiseen and Acid Mothers Temple, two of my all time faves. Especially if they do wrestling songs! Otherwise, I am in a bidding war to sign Jerry420. Fingers crossed!

**Can you tell me about your forthcoming releases?**

At this point, there will be another Photon Band LP in 2014, as well as a new Aleister X (I hope!) and I am working on releasing a compilation of recordings by the early 90s Philadelphia punk band Kitschchao. They were fantastic and for me, the perfect band at the perfect time. They played a bunch of gigs, released one single on Compulsiv and blew up. The jams still hold up. If anyone reading this has photos of Kitschchao, please get in touch with me via [nodandsmilerecs.com](http://nodandsmilerecs.com)

**What does the future hold for Nod and Smile Records?**

I plan on continuing, the frustrations are temporary and the records themselves will last a long, long time. I love the idea of 30 years from now some robot sorority jamming out to Aleister X on vinyl.

