

ePop 028:
Sleeping
Policemen





EardrumsPop is a label where we release free digital singles of our favourite artists. Every single will include 2 original songs and in addition a cover-song that deserves more attention. The cover art will be made by our favourite illustrators, and we like to see the single as a split-release between the band and the illustrator.

The singles will vary in style, from acoustic folk-songs to noisy indiepop, everything in between and more, but always warm and melodic.

Tracklisting:

1. Vogelbird
2. First Things First
3. Jack Of All Trades (Big Ideas cover)

»» *Track 1 and 2 written by Sleeping Policemen. Track 3 written by Big Ideas. All songs performed by Sleeping Policemen. The single was recorded, produced and mixed by Tilman van der Leeden and mastered by Jörg Milling.*

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Introduction to the band:

“Sleeping Policemen’s gentle, elegant indie-pop comes tumbling out of your speakers, lands in a crumpled heap on your floor, and after a quick glance around, opens the curtains to let a bit of sun in. As home invasions go, it’s a pretty welcome one. Alex, Hennie, Jil, Jonas and Sonja hail from Hamburg. They love roast chicken and Fanta. Like their traffic safety namesake, they’d like you to perhaps slow down a little bit. That they manage this with silvery guitars, a wry turn of phrase and a wistful melodic twist instead of by wrecking your suspension is something to be thankful for.”

(Neil Wells)

<http://soundcloud.com/sleeping-policemen>

<https://www.facebook.com/sleepingpolicemen>



The Cover Art Designer: carsten nicolaus

»» **Can you give us a short presentation of yourself and your art?**

i am one of those guys who like to draw little funny things during the day whenever a pen and a piece of paper are around. most of my works are linocuts.

»» **How did you get started in the illustration/ art field?**

i grew up in a family where art was always present.

»» **What are you working on right now?**

i'm trying to print linocuts in huge sizes.

»» **What are your favourite tools?**

pen, paper, linoleum.

»» **Please tell us about the process of making the EardrumsPop-cover! Is this the way you usually work?**

i did a sketch, did some cutting, printed it as a linocut and colored it with photoshop. the step with photoshop is unusual for me. in most cases i do prints with up to five overlapping blocks using just black or grey tones.

»» **Who / what are your greatest visual inspirations?**

long trips into nature and long nights in the city.

»» **Is music or other forms of art an inspiration? If so, what do you listen to?**

i always listen to music when i draw or print, and the music i listen to varies a lot.

»» **Describe an average working day.**

4 days a week at the office from 9 to 5. working as a network administrator and software-developer. 3 days off to do whatever i like to do.

Read the rest of the interview here: <http://www.eardrumspop.com/?p=3034>

my name is carsten nicolaus, i am 34 years old, born and living in hamburg, germany. i never went to art school nor did i take part in any other professional training. not a career guy. couchsurfer. fell in love with linocuts some years ago.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/carstennicolaus/>



Sleeping Policemen — a photo interview:

The innovative website [A Negative Narrative](http://www.anegativenarrative.com) has made photo-interviews with our single-artists. Visit www.anegativenarrative.com and see more bands' photographic answers to their interview questions.

Here is A Negative Narrative's interview with Sleeping Policemen:



- 1) Take a photo of an ear, but make it real strange, artistic or unrecognisable.



- 2) What's the most precious thing you'd smash up or break just for the purpose of taking a photo of it all broken and smashed for this interview?



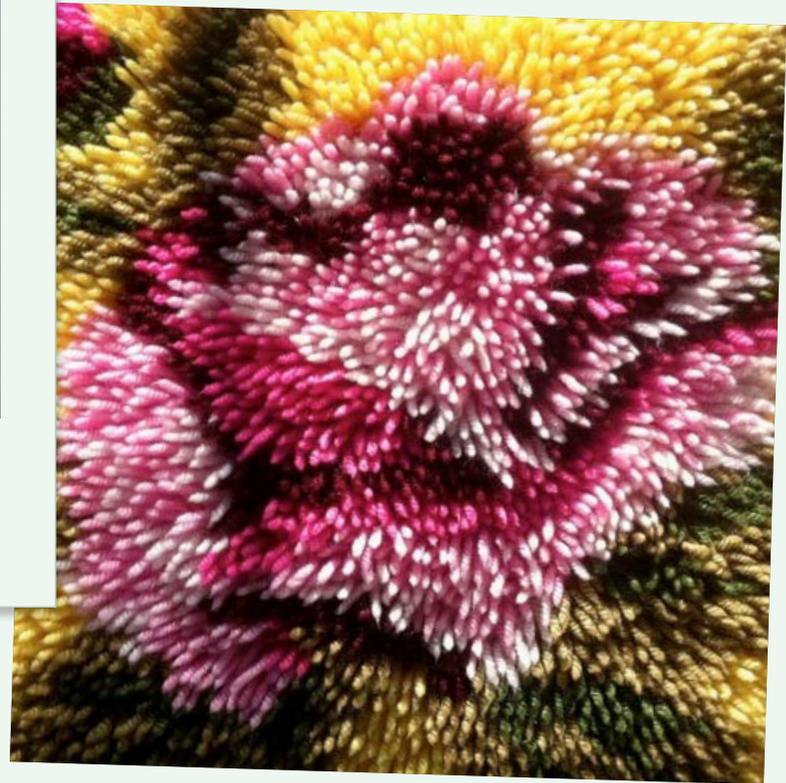
3) Tell us a secret.



4) What does life mean to you?



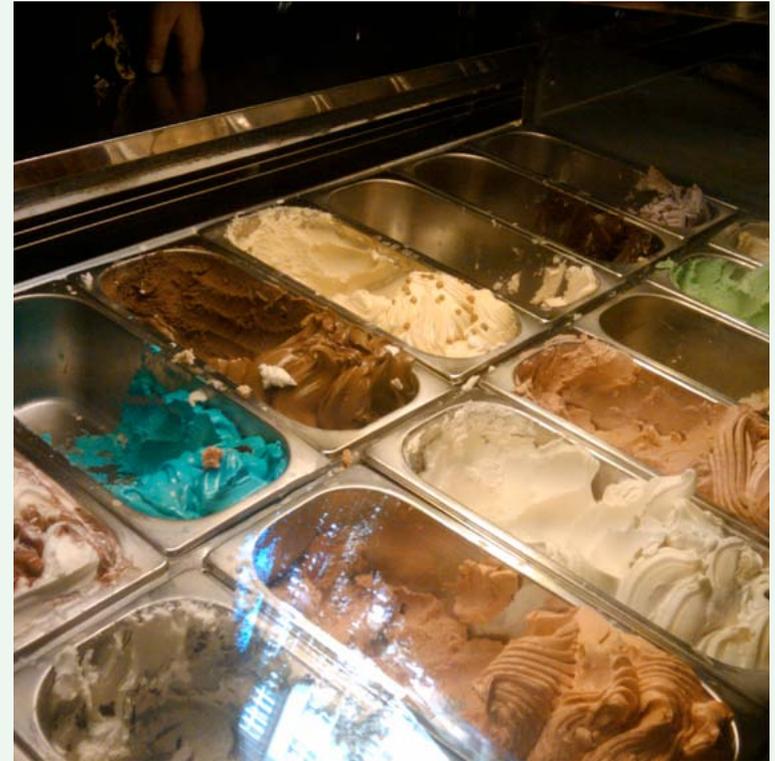
5) Define infinity.



6) How about a really colourful photograph?



7) Photograph someone who isn't expecting it.



8) What would your music look like if it was visible to the human eye?



9) What makes you really, really, stupidly happy?



10) Photograph something illegal or naked.

The cover song: We have encouraged the single-bands to make a cover version of a song they think deserve more attention. Sleeping Policemen have chosen to cover “Jack of all trades”, originally performed by Big Ideas.

About Big Ideas

Big Ideas are from Hamburg. They are very good friends of us and also the link between 3 Hamburg-based bands: Sleeping Policemen, Honey-heads and Tripping The Light Fantastic. We chose to cover “Jack Of All Trades”, because it is a song we love to play all together. So it felt only natural to ask our friends Henning Kasbohm, Martina Lenzin and Kerstin Pietsch to join in, when we recorded the song. All of us have been through a lot of odd-jobbing to be able to do what we love: Make music, see places, meet people, for instance. This song describes this very feeling – with some sort of megalomaniac, dreamy twist, admittedly. “Consider this a hymn to all the folks with no steady income coming in.”



About EardrumsPop, the label:

EardrumsPop is a net-label closely related to the music blog Eardrums. We love warm and melodic music of all kinds, we believe in beautiful things you can see and hear, and we believe in working together, helping each other and getting good music and good art out to the public.

We HOPE that you can visit the websites of the bands you like, buy their releases, go to their concerts or just spread the word about these wonderful bands.

All our releases are made in close collaboration with the artists and illustrators.

www.eardrumspop.com

Contributors to the project:

»» The **booklet-template** is designed by Julia Pax. Visit Julia at www.visuellezeiten.de. You can also read our interview with her at www.eardrumspop.com/about-2/our-illustrators/julia-pax

»» The **booklet** is put together in Adobe InDesign by Craig Podd www.craigpodd.co.uk.

»» The **text** in the booklet is put together by the EardrumsPop team.

»» The **project** is run and managed by the EardrumsPop-team, Stefan, Tim and Knut. Visit us at www.eardrumspop.com

»» The **photo-interviews** are managed by the website A Negative Narrative www.anegativenarrative.com

If you want to participate in any way, either with music, art or help us with the project, please contact us at team@eardrumspop.com.

You can also join our Facebook group: www.facebook.com/eardrumspop.

Next singles in this series:

»» Boa Constrictor

»» Jacob Borshard collaboration project

If you enjoyed the single, please tell your friends about it! Write about it in your blog, on Facebook, Twitter, Last.fm etc. Play it on your radio show, your podcast or as loud as you can on your stereo with your windows open. Spread the word about the single and help us let lots of people hear it!

You can help us develop the label, pay some bills for us or buy us a beer, by donating a small sum via our PayPal. **Thank you!**

<http://www.eardrumspop.com/donate/>



We like to think that we are the perfect team, but we could be even more perfect with a 4th ePop-member. We're actually 5 members already, if we count in our graphics department, Lisle and Craig, but we need one more to help finding artists, preparing the releases and doing some promotion.

If you want to become our new team member, please send us an email to team@eardrumspop.com and tell us a little bit about yourself. Use "New ePop-member" as the subject of your email.

Qualifications needed:

- Good taste in music (that is similar to ours)
- a "discovery-gene", good at finding new bands
- easy to collaborate with, and willing to work for free.
- a friendly attitude.

Qualifications that are not needed, but it's a plus if you have any of these:

- a discovery-gene and interest in illustration
- basic photoshop skills
- some wordpress/html-skills
- lots of contacts in music/press
- creative ideas on how to develop the label
- video-making skills.
- knowledge in Adobe Indesign and that you own the software.
- know how to use social media to promote music.

Are you the one we're looking for?