

# PATTERN

## REVIEWS RECORDED



### Head Like a Kite – *Random Portraits of the Home Movie*

Produced & mixed by Brian Deck at Engine Studios  
Recorded at the Pajama Theater & Electrokitty Studios

Head Like a Kite is the solo project of Sushirobo guitarist Dave Einmo. Except that solo doesn't pertain to this effort at all. *Random Portraits of the Home Movie* features the collective talent of producer Brian Deck (Modest Mouse) with members of the Posies, Kinski, Crooked Fingers, and Smoosh in order to form a Seattle super-group (Voltron ain't got *nuthin'* on these guys). Einmo also utilizes bits of his parents' old Super 8 videos as the functional and philosophical foundation for the album. These analog tapes offer up random ambient sounds that he masterfully blends with more conventional pop overtones and a trip-hop attitude. By running film samples through guitar effects and analog gadgets, sounds from a not-so-distant past rear up just as the well-blended melodies bring forth a false sense of security. Einmo also includes krautrock motifs, but executes them in such a manner as to make a koto, cello, and mellotron feel right at home (think Tangerine Dream meets Kings of Convenience). The result is an aural landscape both complex and evocative, an avant-garde hydra that sprouts two new sensory connotations for every one caught and classified.

The concept behind the Super 8 is vital to the music on *Random Portraits of the Home Movie*. Unlike modern day digitals, the elder video capturing system was limited to three-minute clips. Einmo uses this idea to set the pace for the album, mashing quick bursts of '70s samples, crisp drumming, and ambient electronica into an expertly crafted homage to those old movies. In "Tell Mommy You Want a Sip of Beer," the discordant cello and spastic electronic fidgety are diametrically opposed to the finely-tuned pop sensibility shown in "A Dime and a Cigarette," yet both showcase the same yearning for attention to superficially inconsequential details. This is further expressed in Track 7, when Einmo repeats the words, "Obsession breeds tension / I'm neurotic, pour me a drink." His loss of mental stability, however, is the music community's gain. This album is an eclectic masterstroke, soothing and infectious all at once. (Pattern 25)

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-Stephen Gresch