



## 10 questions to Mike Patton

Though his time with Faith No More is undoubtedly one of the least interesting things about him, Mike Patton started off deconstructing every other genre in his original band Mr. Bungle. He was also kicking around solo experiments with John Zorn and by the time Faith No More finally disbanded, he had several other music projects headed in several other directions and eventually started his own record label, Ipecac Recordings.

"Mike Patton is one of those guys who does whatever he wants," Rob Swift of the X-ecutioners told me. "As crazy as it may sound, as goofy as it may sound, he tries it. Working with him has helped me be a little less inhibited about trying things that may not be what people are expecting." By now, fans of Mike Patton's work have come to expect anything and everything.

The following interview keeps coming back to the same point:  
Mike Patton does whatever he wants, unfettered by anyone's expectations.

**Alessia Bassani:** *What is photography for you?*

**Mike Patton:** It is a form of art. I think a simple photo or visual is capable of evoking the same feelings that a noise or word can. A lot of times a photo can be more powerful. Sometimes people complain that some of my records use noises and not words, but I feel strongly that everything does not need to be spelled out. It is good to let one's imagination be involved.

*Do you believe that the current digital technologies restrict artists (musicians, photographers, etc) or do they give them more space and ideas?*

It gives them more space and a bigger platform. It saves money as well!

*Internet- love or hate?*

Both. It is nice to have access to so much but at times it is too much and has made people lazy and uncreative.

*Photography once had the negative and the print, now it has its digital formats, making it easier and cheaper to take photograph. Now fewer people hold a print in their hand, rather than being kept away and brought out from time to time, the images are lost inside some forgotten folder, hidden away somewhere on a computer.*

*The format of music has evolved also, from vinyl, cassette tape and CD to the current MP3. Do you think this is a change for the better? And how have you embraced these changes?*

I don't agree with you. I think these changes have encouraged more people to take pictures and make music and to share them with others. Young children are taking pictures now. This is a good thing!

*You seem like an artist who puts content and quality production before distribution and fame. Is this pattern of choice down to a premeditated plan of action, or does it just come naturally to you?* I just look at what I do as an art. The art, the actual music and the packaging are important to me. I have to please myself. If that is done it is a success, no matter what other people say. But it is nice when others appreciate it as well.

*You lived in Italy for many years; you also speak some Italian, what made you leave?*

I was never there permanently and I am still there a lot. But what I do for a living is based in the US.

*Italy is a nice country, especially if you live there as a foreigner because you don't hear the unhappiness and the complaints. Have you taken something of Italy or its people with you back to the States?*

There is unhappiness and complaints everywhere. I always take part of the Italian spirit with me. My wife is Italian!!!!

*Now back to photography. Photographers are facing strict new legislation over privacy in Europe. This may infringe on and limit the availability of the cultural territories to document. Do you see this as an improvement or a limitation?*

I'm not familiar with it so I can't comment. I'm not one for rules generally.

*Are paparazzi photographers?*

Sure! Just like Britney Spears is a musician.

*Music: what are you listening at the moment?*

Sigur Ros.

*Best live band you saw last year?*

The Stooges

*How would you describe your relationship to music?*

It is what I do for a living. It is also something I love.

*Mr Bungle, Faith no More, Fantomas, Tomahawk, Peeping Tom... what's next?*

More Tomahawk, more Peeping Tom, a record with Eyvind Kang, a videogame called "The Darkness", more touring.....

*...and what do you think makes people create?*

Imagination and sometimes boredom.

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