

= Felt Mountain =

Felt Mountain is the debut studio album by English electronic music duo Goldfrapp , released on 11 September 2000 by Mute Records . The album takes influence from a variety of music styles such as 1960s pop , cabaret , folk and electronica .

Felt Mountain peaked at number 57 in Goldfrapp 's native United Kingdom , and was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) in October 2001 . It was generally well received by music critics , and it was described as " simultaneously smarmy and seductive , yet elegant and graceful " . In 2001 , the album was shortlisted for the Mercury Prize , an annual music prize awarded for the best British or Irish album from the previous year .

= = Recording and production = =

Goldfrapp signed a recording contract with London @-@ based record label Mute Records in August 1999 . The pair began recording their debut album over a six @-@ month period , beginning in September 1999 , in a rented bungalow in the Wiltshire countryside . The recording process was difficult for Alison Goldfrapp , who was often alone and disturbed by the mice and insects in the bungalow . Gregory described their recording sessions as intense because he was unaccustomed to composing with others . Goldfrapp contributed the album 's lyrics , and Gregory and Goldfrapp composed the music together . The lyrics are abstract obsessional tales inspired by films , Goldfrapp 's childhood , and the loneliness she felt while recording the album . Musically , the album takes influence from a variety of styles including 1960s pop , cabaret , folk , and electronica .

= = Songs = =

" Lovely Head " , Felt Mountain 's opening track , features high lonesome whistling and heavily processed vocals . The song was described as influenced by Shirley Bassey and released as the album 's lead single . The second track , " Paper Bag " , is about being obsessed with someone and not being able to have them . It is followed by the third single " Human " , a track with a mambo @-@ style beat . The fourth song , " Pilots " , which describes travelers floating in the atmosphere above the earth , was inspired by John Barry 's James Bond theme songs . In the United Kingdom , a remixed version of the song was released as a single , reaching number 68 on the UK Singles Chart .

The ballad " Deer Stop " features childlike vocals and sexually suggestive lyrics . The title track was influenced by Goldfrapp 's " idea of a wolf being whipped in this little Tudor house overlooking a snowy landscape " . " Oompa Radar " , the seventh track , was inspired by Roman Polanski 's 1966 film Cul @-@ de @-@ Sac . The cabaret @-@ influenced song uses a flugelhorn and a cuckoo clock to switch between tempos . " Utopia " was released as the album 's second single . The album closes with " Horse Tears " , a minimalist piano ballad with filtered vocals .

= = Critical reception = =

AllMusic reviewer Heather Phares referred to the album as a " strange and beautiful mix of the romantic , eerie , and world @-@ weary " and named it " one of 2000 's most impressive debuts " . Eric Wittmershaus of Flak Magazine called Felt Mountain " an enchanting , accessible debut " , citing " Human " and " Deer Stop " as its best songs . In a review for Pitchfork , Matt LeMay described the album as " elegant and graceful " , but felt that the " songs aren 't all that different from one another . " Sacha Esterson of musicOMH compared Felt Mountain to Portishead and wrote that it could be a " contender for the year 's best album " . Yahoo ! Music 's Ken Micallef commented that the duo " make elegiac music as elegant as ' Diamonds Are Forever ' and as haunting as Bobbie Gentry 's ' Ode to Billie Joe ' " , concluding that the album 's " dark night of the soul is mostly bleak , beautiful , and deliciously bizarre . " Andrew Lynch of entertainment.ie noted that " [a] lthough at times it feel [sic] a little contrived , for the most part this is stylishly decadent music that should

appeal to all fans of film noir . " The NME viewed the album as " cold , desolate and old @-@ fashioned " and argued that Felt Mountain was not a " bad concept " except that " Portishead got there first , and managed to update the spy @-@ film vibe with a hefty dose of break @-@ driven twilight melancholia . "

Q magazine included the album on its list of the top 50 albums of 2000 . The following year , Felt Mountain was shortlisted for the Mercury Prize , an annual music prize awarded for the best British or Irish album from the previous year . In 2006 , the album was included in Robert Dimery 's book 1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die . In November 2009 , The Times ranked Felt Mountain at number 16 on its list of the 100 best pop albums of the 2000s . The album was placed at number 94 on Slant Magazine 's list of the best albums of the 2000s .

= = Commercial performance = =

Felt Mountain debuted at number 144 on the UK Albums Chart , selling 914 copies in its first week . In September 2001 , the album peaked at number 57 , and had sold 177 @,@ 096 copies by August 2005 . Felt Mountain was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) on 12 October 2001 . In France , the album reached number 48 , and remained on the albums chart for 11 weeks . It reached the top 40 in Germany and the top 50 in Australia and Austria . Despite not appearing on any major charts in North America due to limited promotion , Felt Mountain had sold 52 @,@ 000 copies in the United States as of August 2006 .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory , except where noted .

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Felt Mountain .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =