

= 4 Walls =

4 Walls is the fourth studio album by South Korea @-@ based girl group f (x) , released by S.M. Entertainment on October 27 , 2015 . Lee Soo @-@ man , former president of S.M. Entertainment , served as the executive producer of the album . It marked the group 's first release as a four @-@ member group after former member Sulli left the group in August 2015 .

To promote the album , f (x) appeared and performed on several music programs including M Countdown , Music Bank and Show ! Music Core . The group further embarked on its first concert tour Dimension 4 ? Docking Station (2016) , which visited South Korea and Japan in January and February 2016 . The title track " 4 Walls " was released as a single in conjunction with the release of the album . The record 's musical styles are diverse , incorporating the group 's signature electropop and synthpop sound with elements of various genres including house , EDM and UK garage .

The album received favorable reviews from music critics , who noted that the other members had the opportunity to showcase their vocal abilities more following the departure of Sulli . The release peaked atop South Korea 's Gaon Album Chart and has sold over 76 @,@ 000 physical copies in the country as of January 2016 ; in addition , 4 Walls topped the Billboard World Albums Chart and charted at number thirty @-@ nine on the Japanese Oricon Albums Chart . The single " 4 Walls " , meanwhile , peaked at numbers two on the Gaon Digital Chart and the Billboard World Digital Songs .

= = Background = =

South Korea @-@ based girl group f (x) had been known as a five @-@ member girl group , with its original lineup consisting of members Krystal , Amber , Victoria , Sulli , and Luna . The group 's last release as a five @-@ member group was Red Light , released in July 2014 . During the promotion of Red Light , member Sulli did not participate in live performances due to her " suffering from continual negative comments and false rumors , " according to the group 's parent company S.M. Entertainment 's official statement on July 25 , 2014 @.@ f (x) ' s promotional activities thereafter involved the four other members , while Sulli took a career hiatus . On August 7 , 2015 , it was announced that Sulli had officially withdrawn from the group to focus on her acting career , and f (x) would continue to promote as a four @-@ member group .

= = Release and promotion = =

f (x) was announced to be working on its then @-@ forthcoming studio album on September 11 , 2015 , when the group traveled to Jeju Island to film a music video . The album , titled 4 Walls , was released digitally worldwide on October 27 , 2015 by S.M. Entertainment . In South Korea , the album was distributed digitally and physically by S.M. Entertainment and KT Music . The music video for the title track " 4 Walls " was released simultaneously . The song impacted Korean Broadcasting System 's " K @-@ Pop Connection " radio on October 29 .

Following the release of the album , f (x) appeared and performed on several music programs . Its first televised appearance was on July 29 , 2014 on Mnet 's M Countdown , where the group performed " 4 Walls " and " Diamond " . The group subsequently appeared on KBS ' Music Bank and MBC 's Show ! Music Core on the two following days , respectively . To further promote the album , f (x) embarked on the concert tour Dimension 4 ? Docking Station , which was its first concert tour since their debut in 2009 . The tour kicked off in Seoul , South Korea at Olympic Park from January 29 to 31 , 2016 , and further included six shows in four cities of Japan : Tokyo , Fukuoka , Osaka and Nagoya . The tour lasted from February 20 to 28 , 2016 .

= = Musical styles = =

The album , in the words of Pitchfork Media , keeps up with f (x) ' s signature electropop and synthpop styles that the group cultivated through its previous albums Pink Tape (2013) and Red

Light (2014) . Jeff Benjamin of Billboard noted the emphasis on house and dance genres on the album . The opening track " 4 Walls " was described as a tropical house song with " slinky " synthesizers and " dreamy " hooks by The Star . It was characterized as an " update " of UK garage by Spin , while Billboard detailed it as having a deep house sound . The next song , " Glitter " , is an R & B and synthpop number . " Deja Vu " mixes industrial beats with glitch pop sounds , while " X " draws influences from the 1980s funk , 1990s disco and R & B.

" Rude Love " is described as a piano house song with dance fusion . " Diamond " is an electropop song , while " Traveler " features retro @-@ styled melodies and smooth rap verses . The track " Papi " , instrumented by synthesizers , infuses Latin music and EDM styles . " Cash Me Out " is an EDM song that incorporates elements of American electropop . The album closer " When I 'm Alone " is a synthpop track which was initially written by Canadian singer Carly Rae Jepsen during recording sessions for her third studio album Emotion (2015) , but its inclusion was withdrawn and its rights were later purchased by S.M. Entertainment .

= = Critical reception = =

4 Walls was subject to favorable reviews from music critics . Jeff Benjamin from Billboard shared that despite the fact that the album was " arguably worse " than f (x) ' s previous albums Pink Tape (2013) and Red Light (2014) , it allowed the other members to showcase their vocal abilities more following the departure of Sulli . He praised it as a " rarity in K @-@ pop to do once " by " finding the right soundscapes " and appreciated the " house and trendy dance " production . Benjamin subsequently named 4 Walls the second best K @-@ pop album of 2015 , writing : " Known for crafting some of the best full @-@ length K @-@ pop albums , f (x) did not disappoint with their long @-@ awaited 4 Walls comeback . "

Jakob Dorof on behalf of Pitchfork Media labeled the record a " superficial rebirth " following f (x) ' s lineup change and commented that the other members had the chance to express their talents more , particularly with Amber 's alto " harmonies " on " Rude Love " . He , upon reviewing the album for Spin , disliked the songs " Deja Vu " , " Papi " , " Cash Me Out " and " When I 'm Alone " . He nonetheless labeled them " minor misgivings " and complimented 4 Walls on featuring " sophisticated and innovative " musical styles that could " signal a surprise second life for the world 's greatest living pop group . " Echoing Dorof 's viewpoint , Chester Chin of The Star was not impressed by the inclusion of the " derivative " tracks " Glitter " and " Cash Me Out " , yet expressed his admiration for the " solid and edgy " album 's " more cohesive " sound as well as " more polished and sharper " beats .

= = Commercial performance = =

4 Walls was a commercial success in South Korea , and also charted in Japan and the United States . It debuted atop South Korea 's Gaon Album Chart on the chart issue dated October 25 ? 31 , 2015 . It was the fourth best @-@ selling physical album of October 2015 in South Korea , with sales figures standing at 65 @,@ 933 copies . The album was additionally the eighteenth highest @-@ selling album of November with 7 @,@ 820 units sold . Overall , it ranked at number thirty @-@ three on the Gaon 's 2015 year @-@ end album chart , with accumulated sales of 75 @,@ 625 copies . 4 Walls debuted at number thirty @-@ nine on Japan 's Oricon Albums Chart on November 16 , 2015 . It peaked at number one on the U.S. Billboard World Albums Chart on November 14 , 2015 , becoming f (x) ' s second number one on the chart following 2013 's Pink Tape . 4 Walls was the group 's best @-@ charting album on the U.S. Heatseekers Albums Chart , where it charted at number seven . The single " 4 Walls " debuted at number two on South Korea 's Gaon Digital Chart for the week of October 25 , 2015 . It was the twenty @-@ sixth best @-@ selling single of October 2015 (199 @,@ 976 digital units sold) , and the twelfth best @-@ selling single of November 2015 (247 @,@ 232 digital units sold) in South Korea . The track debuted at number two on the U.S. Billboard World Digital Songs , becoming their highest @-@ charting song on the chart .

= = Track listing = =

= = Chart performance = =

= = Release history = =