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ESKMO: ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

[Brendan Angelides](#) is a San Francisco based electronic music producer who records and performs live as Eskmo. His multi-genre compositions have been featured on influential labels like Warp Records and Planet Mu. While Angelides' tracks encompass a wide range of electronic styles, he avoids classifications. Bleep.com described his tracks as "Masterfully produced... sophisticated, post-Dilla hip-hop funk". His last single of 2009 entitled "Let Them Sing" on Mu was met with equal praise and described by sites like Boomkat as "[Putting] Eskmo on his own electronic plateau."

In the past five years he's released over a dozen singles and EPs while touring throughout North America and Europe. He's also remixed works by diverse artists such as Bibio, Spor, STS9, Bear In Heaven and Bar9, to name a few. Angelides also runs the [Ancestor](#) label, which issued his "Hypercolor" and "Angus Dei" singles in 2009 to positive reviews from numerous magazines, blogs and tastemakers. Ninja Tune recording artist and film composer Amon Tobin hailed his work as "some of the best production I've heard in recent times."

Angelides' performance moniker was inspired by San Francisco experimental music icons The Residents' 1979 album "Eskimo". Drawn to the album's character-based stories and shamanistic themes, he dropped the title's middle "I" and launched his Eskmo project in 1999 in his home state Connecticut. Prior to that, in the mid-90s, he was introduced to renegade funk combo Primus and UK breakbeat techno wizards The Prodigy. The music virus soon took hold. He learned to play bass and formed bands while absorbing '90s electronic music from Aphex Twin, Frankie Bones, 187, Dieselboy, The Chemical Brothers and Moby among others.

Angelides initially made music to share with friends using a primitive Miracle instructional keyboard, a four-track recorder and a bass guitar. He used a Roland keyboard to record his first formal work, a CD titled "Machines on Task", for a school graduation project. After high school, between 1999 and 2005, he wrote two full-length albums that he gave away at small shows. During this time he spent two years working on music in a secluded lakeside house in Connecticut. It was there that he also wrote gentler, melodic material released later under his other production alias, Welder.

Delving into conspiracy theories and moved by the 9/11 attacks, his music took a darker turn. However, by 2005 he grew tired of his remote outpost and emerged to explore new environments and sounds. "The [conspiracies] were separating me from people," he says of that period. "I wanted [people] to be motivated to come together and make change, but it had the opposite effect. I realized that music could be a tool to bring people together."

Following a month-long backpacking trip to the UK where he heard emerging electronic sounds at London club Fabric, he began composing and releasing breakbeat tracks on labels like Vertical Sound, Downbeat and Cyberfunk. During this period he began working with other styles, developing his genre-less approach, music that DJ Mag described as "twisted, funky...quite magnificent."

In early 2006 he was invited to play in San Francisco. He fell in love with the area's culture, art, music and landscape and relocated to the city soon after. He was immediately embraced by SF's frenetic electronic producer and label community.

One track that caught on big in 2009 was the self-released "Hypercolor". "I wanted to write a tune at 140 bpm," he says of the beaming, colorful song. "I made [the beat] a triplet pattern and added some Tom Waits-y sounds to it. I wanted it to be a really big sounding track without it being an aggro tune." The track was featured on the Mary Anne Hobbs' BBC Radio1 show and was presented by Bleep as one of the top 100 tracks of 2009 in their catalog.

Soon after his remix of Warp's Bibio was featured in Pitchfork, he was asked by Flying Lotus to perform at the Brainfeeder Sessions in LA alongside Nosaj Thing. Angelides has since joined forces with Amon Tobin in a collaborative music project called "Eskamon" that highlights their love of field recording and unique take on sound



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manipulation. His first single on Warp entitled "Lands and Bones" featuring Swan is set for an early 2010 release on a split single with good friend EPROM.

Although club and radio DJs readily spin his music, Angelides always performs his Eskmo and Welder work live. His innovative, emotive on-stage performances utilize Ableton Live software with various MIDI controllers to manipulate keyboard work, effects, warping and queing.

Eskmo's music is stimulating without being overbearing. His tracks offer a vibrant rush of sound and quiet nuances often in the same track. XLR8R describes his work as "science-fiction like..spine tingling stuff." It's music that is both exciting and transformative. "I want to bring that out for people, and whatever that might activate for them. If someone is in a transitional phase, going through life difficulties or in a raw space, I want to direct [that energy] to a [more] productive space."

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