

Spectral Qualities of Sound Prehispanic Resonances in the Metal of Cemican

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Cemican reunites metal music with the sounds of an ancient and imagined reality in México. That is before it was even called that, before it was what we know it today. The use of the Aztec and Mayan elements in their lyrics, instrumentation and costumes comes as no coincidence. Even though the use and function of the instruments and other elements are assumed by archeologists, they are founded on through research and have found to be in a tight connection to a ritual aspect in the ancient cultures. The images and sounds merged with the raucous metal riffs generate an atmosphere where the symbolic performances thrive in an equally merged audience. The manifestation of taking in these symbols are evident with the band's fans, even out of their natal México. During every live performance the audience is not only absorbed in the corporal experience of a metal concert, but of the collective experience of a ritual, where they are not only observing but participating as instigators during the reenactment of the sacrifice. Their performance is enhanced to another level with the participation of a very important element and /or band member: a ritualist. The relation with the ritualist and the different attires evokes distinct reactions in the audience. Even though the event screams violence, the ambience felt in the communal involvement of the concert is almost fraternal. The collective imagined world of how it was before colonization is an understanding that lingers in all Mexicans one way or the other. Cemican works to reconcile and fusion this depiction with the least bloody revolution of all: music.