

Local Noise

Fusée Dorée



Bon Esprit Asociaal, Winston Kingdom Friday 15

Cast an eye over the world's female singer-songwriters and it can seem like the genre is governed by a small, doggedly conservative rulebook. You can be a silky-voiced, vaguely mystical folkie (Jewel, Heather Nova), a confessional whinger (Tori Amos, Alanis) and, well, that's about it.

One woman who clearly didn't receive her copy of the book is Fusée Dorée, aka Bordeaux-born, Amsterdam-based Emmanuelle Ornon. 'When people hear "girl with a guitar" they usually assume a few things,' she says. 'Then they're surprised at what they get.'

Live, Ornon sounds like more than the sum of her parts. Armed with an electric guitar, a loop pedal and a raft of electronic boxes, she actively resists the plodding, acoustic trappings of many singer-songwriters. Edgy and shimmering, her sound is awash with layers of lo-fi noise, skittish beats and urgent, childlike vocals – mostly sung in her native French. 'It's a shame that a lot of people here may not understand,' she reflects. 'I do take a lot of time with the lyrics.'

Ornon's first compositions were made as an installation artist in Bordeaux over ten years ago: timid, layered, vocal sound collages designed to be played alongside her visual creations. Since moving to Amsterdam, she's been a longstanding member of local world-pop combo Children SuMadre, but it wasn't until 2009 – during an event at Amsterdam's Maison Descartes French

Institute – that she strapped on a guitar and took the stage solo.

'I'd set some French poems to music,' she says. 'But the first Fusée Dorée show, with my own songs and lyrics, wasn't until last year.'

The visual arts origins of Fusée Dorée are still apparent: partly in the cool elegance of Ornon's stage presence (with her black bob and angular features, she looks every inch the French *chanteuse*) but also in the certain cinematic quality her music possesses. The sexy, robo-femme vocals of 'Same Things' would comfortably soundtrack a grainy art-house urban romance, while the Gallic sheen of 'Twinkle' recalls the

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French duo Air's score for *The Virgin Suicides*.

This month, Fusée Dorée hits the Winston Kingdom for an event organised by Bon Esprit – a French event organiser also based in Amsterdam, who shares Ornon's taste for the unusual. 'You never know what to expect with his shows,' she says. 'I did one for him in a shoe shop.' She pauses, then adds with typically French insouciance: 'They were really good shoes.' *Kit Ballantyne*

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