

Internet ◆ Comedy
 Galleries ◆ Cafes
 Theatre ◆ Cinema

Album of the week



B(IF)TEK 2020

Murmur/Sony

Formed in Canberra but now split between Sydney and Melbourne, the duo that is B(if)tek say they've found a way into tomorrow via yesteryear, and even employ the term retro-futurism to explain what they do. Simply put, they revel in giving old analogue synth sounds a new skin, one that clearly acknowledges its influences. So a track like Ultimate is robotic in the best Kraftwerk sense, and Luxury gives more than a nod to Giorgio Moroder. But if that's all they did, the result would be anachronistic, nostalgic or copyist, or all three. Thankfully, Kate Crawford and Nicole Skeltys bring more to their musical vehicle than just a rear view.

You can see that in what could have been a wrong-headed cover of Cliff Richard's Wired For Sound. It's both sly and serious, managing to be playful and a manifesto simultaneously — with Ju

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lee Cruise's sweetly gauzy vocal adding another layer. That mix of humour and invention gives tracks like Machines Work, We Think You're Dishy, Japanese Game Show and Bedrock a seemingly impossible blend of elegance and kitsch, and ends up sounding great for it. As the mock business prospectus on the CD-ROM says, invest in the B(if)tek Corporation, it's a sound idea. Or, if that's too bland, how about, B(if)tek I think you're dishy. ****½

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Other reviews cover new albums from Turnstyle, 78 Saab and Rancid

What's going down

- ***** — The Boat
- **** — Above Us The Waves
- *** — Grey Lady Down
- ** — Crimson Tide
- * — Yellow Submarine

Original