



## BIOGRAPHY

**Moderat are  
Modeselektor and Apparat.**

Hardly anybody has brought electronic music from Berlin to the farthest flung corners of the world with more passion and enthusiasm than these two heavyweights.

Modeselektor – Gernot Bronsert and Sebastian Szary – are bass music heroes. Together with a veritable army of collaborators, guest artists and with their two labels Monkeytown and 50Weapons, they have built a broad network. They assimilate and process the tiniest vibrations in the global bass continuum and at the same time, their wobbly salvos and their oblique sense of humour are unmistakable. They became known to a select audience through their records on BPitch Control with which they catapulted themselves out of the Berlin 4/4 cosmos, whilst simultaneously reflecting the raw and full-on spirit of the 1990s Berlin club scene.

Apparat (real name: Sascha Ring) could hardly be more opposite. He fuses tricky electronics with heartfelt and auspicious pop. Together with T.Raumschmiere, he founded Shitkatapult. From early on, Apparat realised that the LP was his preferred form of expression. With each album, he reinvented himself on a personal, stylistic and social level: gradually bringing ever more strata of his emotional persona to light, exploring previously unknown musical styles and involving guest musicians in the process.

In 2002, Sascha, Gernot and Sebastian met for the first time. At that point in time, Apparat and Modeselektor were well established in the Berlin

music scene. Sascha had already released his debut album and Gernot and Sebastian, a series of 12"s. Their shared studio time wore them down to such an extent, that they were forced to shelve the project almost immediately. But the foundations were laid and the three of them were able to present the fruits of their labour: the »Auf Kosten der Gesundheit« EP. Eleven years later, one still can have a sense of the sparks that must have flown in the studio: complex beats wrestling with furious bass and reduced rap elements.

Six years went by before they got together again. In the mean time both acts had established sensationally successful careers. In 2005, Modeselektor's debut album »Hello, Mom!« gained them international recognition at light speed. Pitchfork rejoiced and Thom Yorke constantly mentioned them. Their second album featured vocals from Otto von Schirach, Maximo Park and...Thom York. Modeselektor stormed the festival stages and were honoured by Beatport and Resident Advisor.

Apparat had not just one but two breakthrough albums: in 2006 and together with Ellen Allien, he founded the »Orchestra of Bubbles«, with which the two of them explored the language of song. In 2007 he released »Walls«, his first time working with a band. He developed a live show that fused together acoustic and electronic, and club and pop music. Just as with Modeselektor, Apparat is the epitome of the Berlin sound, but nonetheless lifts the sounds of the city to another level. Significantly, both acts toured with Radiohead.

In 2008, Gernot, Sebastian and Sascha came together once again. Their eponymous debut album was released on April the 20th 2009. Busdriver, the Californian rapper, the German reggae heroes Seeed and the dup poet Paul St. Hilaire joined them on a several songs. Perhaps the secret of Modeselektor's and Apparat's collaboration lies in the fact that they never even tried to get close to one another. Modeselektor's thundering bass rumbles in the cellar, Apparat's sensitive and subtle melodies float high in the eaves. The fact that what one assumes to be incompatible actually communicates, is what makes Moderat so unique. Moderat is not just a studio project: with a set of visuals created for these concerts by Pfadfinderei, they toured all five continents.

With Monkeytown and 50WEAPONS, Modeselektor created a highly potent label empire, which unites the music scene's old heroes with crazy bass kids. The two of them have curated a whole stage at the Melt! Festival a number of times and have released their third album. Apparat travelled the world with the freshly re-formed Apparat Band. He relinquished his position as auteur for the first time by becoming part of a theatre performance and in the album that resulted, released the raw and mostly unedited sessions.

Now, twelve years after their first meeting, Modeselektor and Apparat have come together once again: more mature, but not worldly-wise, wiser but not unquestioning, more experienced but without having sacrificed any of their pioneer spirit. It will be interesting to see what the trio have come up with this time.

2013–2014: The second album Moderat 2013, eleven years after their first encounter, Modeselektor and Apparat meet again: matured, but not detached, wise, but not without questions, experienced, but with a spirit of discovery still. The emotional and stylistic spectrum of their music grew wider: Moderat throw highly energetic breakbeats, powerful basslines, subtle hip-hop grooves, organic tribal sounds and emotional festival anthems in their musical fusion reactor. Being crowned by »Bad Kingdom« as their biggest hit so far, the album charted in the Top10 of the annual best-of-the-year-lists of most major online and offline music magazines, among them Resident Advisor, Clash, Mixmag, Intro, Music Express, Groove and Oor. In Europe ,»II« charted in the Top 100 of all major territories (Germany: #10, Austria: #23, Belgium: #31, UK: #73).

As Moderat were about to start their world tour, the group and the team had to deal with a devastating shock: Sascha had a serious motorcycle accident, it him months to recover fully. When the tour was finally happening half a year later, Moderat played throughout Europe, in Russia, in Georgia, in the US and in Canada. The highlights included wonderful shows in Brussels, in London and at Primavera Festival in Spain. Sascha, Gernot and Sebastian got a great deal of personal satisfaction having sold out Berlin's Columbiahalle on two consecutive nights.

2015–2016: III

Recovering from the craze of the world tour, Moderat started working on their third album. Being their most mature work to date, it deals with the global breakbeat continuum to a lesser extent. They direct their gaze inward, wondering: Where do we stand as humans, as men, as artists, as dads (in the case of Sebastian and Gernot)? In the lyrics, Apparat gives an unfiltered insight into his personal take on the journey we call life. Inspiring us with his inexhaustable creativity and his visions, he is opening up, discussing his shadow, his fears and doubts as well. Modeselektor reach another level, developing an intoxicating energy with their unique rhythmical textures. Movie people say that contradictions create believable characters, and you will find a lot of contradictions in the music of Moderat: fun and profundness, ecstasy and melancholy. Within the frenzy of the strobe lights, Moderat do not only make you sweat. They might make you shed a tear as well.

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