

E arworm returns tonight for a party at The Wall (這牆) showcasing minimal techno from prodigious producer and DJ John Selway.

Though not a household name, Selway is a legend in this genre and has been producing and deejaying since the early 1990s.

Since the early 1990s.

Since its first party
in February of last year,
Earworm has built up a
horde of appreciative fans;
there is no better place to
be tonight to experience the

latest choice techno cuts.

"What was known as
minimal techno or house in

minimal techno or house in the past is now mostly anything but," Washington, DC-born Selway told the Vinyl Word in an e-mail interview earlier this week. "[It is] more than minimal in the sense of 'less is more' ... It has become very rich in complex rhythm, sound and melody."

Minimal to the max at The Wall tonight.

A classically trained violinist from the age of 4, Selway's style bridges genres such as Italo disco, electro, old-school house and, of course, minimal, where he found his niche.

"I'm in no way a music snob or purist," said Selway, now in his early 30s. "I think there is no really bad style of music ... It all has a place and purpose, somewhere there is someone who understands or enjoys it. I was fortunate to have a classical training and rather than limiting how I comprehend music I think it helped me understand everything even more."

Selway began his affair with electronica while in a band named Chaotic Sound Matrix when in university, worked with Deep Dish in the early 1990s and made his name in minimal with **Oliver Chesler** under the moniker Disintegrator not long after.

He is best known for his partnership with **Christian Smith** and together they took minimal to the next level, most noticeably with stunning techno track *Total Departure*, which was released early last year.

"There's a real balance between our contributions," said Selway. "Also, we're not at all afraid to challenge each other; we'll sometimes have good natured arguments about creative decisions. The back and forth results in an outcome greater than the sum of its parts, I think."

Although making and playing harder-edged techno with Smith, Selway works eclectically. The trend of overlapping of genres is "a really great thing that, in the last couple of years, I attribute mostly to the big hype of 'minimal' and before that, even the 'electroclash' hype as well," he said. "It was like an equalizer, bringing disparate scenes close together, mixing genres, and bringing in new generations of fans."

"The influence of electronic dance music production has been felt in all areas of popular music from hip-hop to rock and everything else," said Selway. "And now there is dance music that in the last decade or two would have been considered experimental abstract rhythmic noise that now has become completely normal and widespread."

Moving with the times, Selway has embraced modern deejaying technology, but not Serato.

"At heart I'm a vinyl DJ, it's how I started," said Selway. But now, "I use Native Instruments' Traktor Scratch Pro, which I find to be the best interface for performance, and the best audio quality compared to other digital DJ systems I've heard."

Selway is working on a fresh direction. "Music that is deeper and more melodic," he said. "I'm trying to find a new sound that combines elements of my past with what inspires me now."

At Earworm tonight, Selway will be serving up "a mix of techno, tech house and minimal styles, from deeper to quite heavy ... Lately, I'm enjoying some groovier tribal rhythms, a bit of house here and there mixed in, but definitely with a futuristic, techno edge overall."

Also playing at The Wall is local legend A-Tao, BB and

Databass featuring JU with visuals by Monkey Sun.
Earworm tonight at The Wall, B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4,
Taipei City (北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Entry is NT\$500, which

includes a drink. The party runs from midnight until 6am.

— TOM LEEMING

Cometh the hour, cometh the Milkmen



aving already worked with a host of big names, including Goldie, KRS One and The Scratch Perverts, Diccon Mayfield aka Diqwon Le Chef hopes to instigate some classic dance-floor mayhem tonight at VU Live House (地下絲絨) as one-half of eclectic north London duo Super Milkmen.

"I've just been working on a live electro track and then remixing Bon Jovi onto it," laughs Mayfield, talking on Skype from his home studio. The pair have been working hectically to get material together ahead of a three-date mini-tour of Taiwan. Their latest offering, soon to be released, is a remix of *Built Like an Amplifier* by British beat-boxing talent Killa Kela, who is also partly responsible for Mayfield's stage name.

"[Killa Kela] is the kind of guy who constantly comes up with little quips and stuff, and just randomly he said 'Diqwon the Chef' and it kind of just grew ... It comes initially from Raekwon the Chef of the Wu Tang [Clan]. I suppose it's a reference, I mean that's what I grew up with," says the MC and producer of the MTV2 show *Indelible Hip-hop*.

"I started off beat-boxing years and years ago, I mean I had decks and stuff like that, and I played the guitar ... but my main influence was hip-hop, going back to Grand Puba, [Notorious] B.I.G., Wu Tang, all of the stuff back in those days ... but I've always been very eclectic ... Ghost's background is very much drum 'n' bass," says Mayfield of his musical partner Joseph Shell aka Ghostmen.

"You'll definitely be able to hear that in our set ... starting off with classic hip-hop, moving into a few live remixes of things, Daft Punk and Michael

Moo-ve to the beat.

t. PHOTO: GARETH WILLIAMS, COURTESY OF SUPER MILKMEN

Jackson, stuff like that, moving into some real dirty electro and then finishing with drum 'n' bass."

Playing two consecutive nights this weekend.

Playing two consecutive nights this weekend, crowds can expect a lot of energy on stage from the dairy-product delivering doublet.

"Be prepared for me to be very, very hyper ... I kind of lose all morals and all kind of embarrassment ... I'll have a microphone and I'll be hitting the sample pads. Ghost is in charge of all the mixing and FX ... I'm more of the frontman and Joe's more of the tech guy on stage," says the 28-year-old, keen to stress the accessibility of the Super Milkmen sound.

"My personal view is that the most important thing is to make sure that it's all danceable ... there's recognizable stuff in there ... and that it keeps the people moving and they have a good night."

— JACK HEWSON

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

WHAT: Super Milkmen

WHEN: Tonight from 11pm to 4am

WHERE: VU Live House (地下絲絨), B1, 77, Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市武昌街二段77號B1)

ADMISSION: NT\$400 for men, NT\$300 for women, includes one drink

RESTAURANTS

Imbiss

Address: 3, Ln 34, Xinhai Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市辛亥路一段 34巷3號)

Telephone: (02) 2362-0611

Open: Mondays to Fridays 11:30am to 3pm and 5pm to 10pm (11pm on Fridays); Saturdays and Sundays 11:30am to 11pm **Average meal:** NT\$250

Details: Chinese and English menu; credit cards not accepted **On the Net:** www.wretch.cc/blog/imbiss

Imbiss bills itself as a healthy multi-ethnic eatery. The introductory blurb on its Web site states that the MSG- and trans fats-free restaurant was named after the German word meaning light meal and is associated with inexpensive food served in a casual



Imbiss features bizarre food pairings and decor.

PHOTO: NOAH BUCHAN, TAIPEI TIMES

atmosphere. As its moniker implies, the food is mainly Germaninspired, though it also lists dishes brought to that country by Turkish, French and Greek immigrants.

Located just off Xinhai Road across the street from exit No. 2 of the Taipower Building MRT Station (台電大樓捷運站), the facade's malachite green doors stand out among the surrounding drab gray buildings. Walls painted in hues of orange and cadmium yellow give the open dining area a warm feeling, though this clashes somewhat with the painted green wood finishings. Rounding out this odd palette are the deep brown chairs and tables topped with peacock blue cups.

Some of the food combinations such as the German curry and French fries (NT\$230 and NT\$280) are even more bizarre. In keeping with the restaurant's cross-cultural ethos, I decided on the Imbiss special: Greek-style gyros (lamb or pork) topped with tzaziki sauce, a bratwurst sausage, two organic eggs and Turkish bread (NT\$300). It came as a set meal with an appetizer of homemade soup (there are also salad choices) and two varieties of pickles, cake and bottomless coffee or tea.

Moments after I ordered, the server returned with my soup and a small white dish with the "pickles." Before the appetizer arrived, I tried to picture the pickles' appearance. Would they be large and fat or small and thin? Would they be dill or garlic or, perhaps, both? I must have been showing my cultural insensitivity because what was presented were a few cherry tomatoes sliced in half on one side of the plate and the cut-up flesh of an orange on the other.

The flavor of the tomatoes resembled that of a tangy salsa and the oranges were prepared with lime rind slivers and cracked pepper. The soup was a simple homemade tomato broth with onions, carrots and corn, uplifted by flakes of tarragon and needles of dried rosemary.

I hadn't scooped more than two spoonfuls of the yummy soup into my mouth when, somewhat suspiciously, the main course arrived. I poked at it with my finger to make sure it was warm, which it was. The portions of pork were moist, infused with the taste of rosemary and well complemented by the yogurt and dill tzaziki — though more of the latter could have been provided. The bratwurst was unremarkable, though it did go well with the warm, home-baked flatbread. Only one of the two eggs arrived, which was fine because, as with the sauerkraut, I left most of it on the plate.

One of the draws to Imbiss will surely be its mugs of Warsteiner draft beer (NT\$120), which the establishment claims are the cheapest in town. - NOAH BUCHAN

Hello Kitty Sweets

Address: 90, Da-an Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市大安路一段90號) Telephone: (02) 2711-1132

Open: 11:30am to 10pm

Average meal: NT\$330 for dessert sets; NT\$350 to NT\$500 for entrees; NT\$300 minimum per diner

Details: Chinese menu

Hello Kitty Sweets on Da-an Road is a kawaii mecca for the cult of the bobble-headed cartoon cat. A gigantic oval portrait of Hello Kitty mounted on the restaurant's roof gives it a temple-like aura. The menu at Hello Kitty Sweets is not particularly



Kawaii attempts to meet haute cuisine at Hello Kitty Sweets. PHOTO: CATHERINE SHU, TAIPEI TIMES

memorable, as perhaps befits an establishment named after a cat with no mouth, but that might be beside the point. The main purpose of Hello Kitty Sweets seems to be providing a super girly, lace-festooned and very pink backdrop for photographs. It certainly succeeds on that front — on a recent Saturday, one group of happy young women even brought a giant Hello Kitty stuffed toy to pose with.

Not surprisingly, the dessert sets are the most photogenic and tasty part of Hello Kitty Sweets' menu. Most of them are decorated with Hello Kitty-shaped chocolate pieces, Hello Kitty drawn on with icing, or green tea or chocolate-flavored powder sprinkled through a Hello Kitty stencil directly onto the plate.

Chocolate lovers will have a chocogasm over the Cointreau black chocolate tart (君度黑巧克力塔, NT\$360), which is a pastry crust filled with chocolate truffles and topped with yet more chocolate truffles. If this tart were a Sanrio character, it would be Chococat, a little black kitty with big round eyes. More delicate in flavor is the "mad for strawberries" cake (草莓狂想, NT\$340), layers of fluffy white cake interspersed with whipped cream and strawberries. Sweet, pretty and light, the "mad for strawberries" is the My Melody of the menu and is much less likely to put you in a sugar coma than the chocolate tart. In case you're wondering, this character is a red-hooded white rabbit. One dessert that doesn't deserve a Sanrio mascot is the boring almond tart with red wine poached pear (杏仁紅酒梨塔, NT\$360). The almond tart had a pleasant buttery sweet flavor and texture that resembled shortbread, but the poached slices of pear on top were limp, clammy and flavorless.

Hello Kitty Sweets' entrees are much less adorable. We ordered a steak topped with goose liver pate (嫩肩牛排佐鹅肝醬, NT\$580). The meat was appealingly tender but curiously bland, leaving the very rich, somewhat salty pate to compensate for the lack of flavor. The pate and the bed of mushrooms sauteed in a spicy tomato sauce that the steak was served on both outshone the beef. My companion was also displeased with the candy-like raspberry sauce that covered one third of his plate, which, judging from its near identical appearance, seemed to have been made from the same mix as my glass of raspberry juice (綜合莓果茶, NT\$180).

I had better luck with my smoked salmon Caesar salad (鮭魚凱薩沙拉, NT\$350). The slices of fish were curled into little rosettes and sprinkled with chopped onions and tasty capers. The large bed of iceberg lettuce was tedious to work through, but the creamy, tangy, Parmesan-rich Caesar sauce made up for it (even though it wasn't served in a Hello Kitty shaped cup).

— CATHERINE SHU

[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

Jazz sounds swing **Riverside Cafe** (河岸留言) tonight with saxophonist **Dong Shun-wen** (董舜文) and friends. **Cookie Monster** (餅乾怪獸) and nu-metal/funk band **Coach** (教練) rock the house tomorrow night. College-pop favorite **Crowd Lu** (盧廣仲) appears on Sunday.

- ▶ B1, 2, Ln 244, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路三段244巷 2號B1), next to Taipower Building (台電 大樓). Call (02) 2368-7310 or visit www.
- riverside.com.tw for more information
 Show starts at 9:30pm tonight and
 9pm tomorrow, 9pm on Sunday
 Fintrance fee is NT\$400 tonight and
- ► Entrance fee is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow, NT\$500 Sunday, includes one drink

Tonight at **Riverside Live House** (西門紅樓展演館), indie-folk rocker **Ban Ban** (斑斑) debuts her new band **Boyz and Girl**. Also appearing is another new band, **The Little**. Taiwan's "King of Rock," **Wubai** (伍佰), and his band **China Blue** play

- tomorrow night.

 177 Xining S Rd, Taipei City (台北市西寧南路177號). Call (02) 2370-8805 or visit www.riverside.com.tw for more information
- Shows start at 8:30pm
- ► Entrance NT\$400 tonight and NT\$900 tomorrow, includes one drink

Jazz Your Mind plays tonight at Sappho de Base. The Double J Band plays tomorrow, the Jason Hayashi Trio appears on Tuesday and the Chris Stiles Jazz Trio plays on Wednesday. On Thursday the venue hosts its weekly jam session.

- venue hosts its weekly jam session. ▶ B1, 1, Ln 102, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市安和路一段102巷1號B1). Call (02) 2700-5411 (after 9pm) or visit www.sappho102.biz for more information
- ▶ Performances begin at 10:30pm on weekends, 10pm on weekdays
- No admission fee

Every Wednesday night at the **Cosmopolitan Grill** there's a blues

open mic held by the Blues Society on Taiwan. All are welcome to bring their instruments and sit in on guitar, bass or drums.

- ▶ 1F, 218 Changchun Rd, Taipei City (台北市長春路218號1樓). Call (02) 2508-0304 or visit www.cosmo.com.tw for more information
- ▶ 8pm to 11pm every Wednesday ▶ No admission fee

EZ5 Live House hosts Mando-pop singers backed by a live band every night. Highlights this week include Hsing Lung (辛隆) tomorrow, Julia Peng (彭佳慧), a major draw who appears every Tuesday, and Liu Wei-zen (劉偉仁) on Tuesday and Wednesday.

- Wednesday.
 ▶ 211, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市安和路二段211號). Call (02) 2738-3995 or visit www.ez5.com.tw for more information
- ► Music shows run from 9:45pm to 12:30am
- ► Entrance fee (including two drinks) ranges from NT\$600 to NT\$850, depending on the performer

Newcomers io, a group of Chinese-Canadians from Vancouver, appear tonight at **Underworld (地下社會)**. They open for local indie veterans **La Petite Nurse** (小護士樂團). Tomorrow, Back 2 the Future (回到未來) holds its Friends From A-far party, with a lineup of DJs including **Yang Yang** (洋洋) of Beijing and house DJ **Tsung Ming** (宗明). According to the venue's Web site, the party is being held to "welcome Carsick Cars' and

- Snapline's visit."
 ▶ B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1). Call (02) 2369-0103 or visit www.upsaid.com/underworld for more information
- ► Shows start at 9:30pm
 ► Entrance is NT\$300 tonight and
- ► Entrance is NT\$300 tonight and tomorrow, includes one drink

Tonight at **Tone 56 Live Bar** is New Orleans funk band **The Kenyatta Trio**. No bands are scheduled for tomorrow as the venue will be showing English Premier League soccer live on TV. There's an open jam

- on Sunday. ▶ 1F, 56, Minquan E Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市民權東路三段56號1樓), near the corner of Fuxing North (復興 北) and Minquan East (民權東) roads. Tel: (02) 2517-3869
- ► The music starts at 9:30pm tonight and tomorrow, the open jam goes from 7pm to 10pm on Sunday ► No admission fee

Exhibition

Collision Between Taboo and Desire: Hou Chun-ming Works of Print, 1992-2008 (六腳侯氏— 衝撞在慾望與禁忌之間的版畫創作

1992-2008) displays 13 sets of the artist's printmaking. Bearing titles such as Erotic Paradise and Paradise Lost for the Heterosexuals, the pieces uncompromisingly explore religion, sexual desire and the life experiences

- of the artist. ▶ National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts in Taichung (國立台灣美術館), 2, Wucyuan W Rd Sec 1, Taichung City (台中市五權西路一段2號). Open Tuesdays through Sundays from 9am to 5pm. Tel: (04) 2372-3552
- ▶ Until May 24

Tu Wei-cheng (涂維政), Zhang Hongtu (張宏圖) and Yang Mao-lin (楊茂林) use sculpture and oil painting to investigate history, both real and

imaginary, in Mythologies of Contemporary Art by Three Artists (當代藝術神話—三人展).
▶ Taipei Fine Arts Museum (TFAM),

▶ Taipei Fine Arts Museum (TFAM), 181, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市中山北路三段181號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 9:30am to 5:30pm, closes at 8:30pm on Saturdays. Tel: (02) 2595-7656. On the Net: www.tfam.museum ▶ Until May 3

Lee Tsai-chien's Solo Exhibition

(李再鈴雕塑個展) features 18 metal objects by Taiwan's preeminent master of geometrical sculpture. Ancient Greek ideal forms and Buddhist and Taoist philosophy inspire Lee's monumental creations incorporating

- circles, triangles and squares.
 ▶ Main Trend Gallery (大趨勢畫廊), 209-1, Chengde Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市承德路三段209-1號). Open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11am to 7pm. Tel: (02) 2587-3412. On the Net:
- www.maintrendgallery.com.tw

 Until April 25

The natural cycle of growth and decay informs **The Day I Saw Past and Future Sceneries Playing (那天我看見昨天和明天風景在遊戲)**, a solo exhibition by Jang Tarng-kuh (張堂庫). Employing a visual aesthetic that harks back to early modern traditions of landscape painting, Jung's pastoral canvases depict scenes of overgrown

mountains shrouded in mist.

Metaphysical Art Gallery (形而上畫廊), 7F, 219, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段219號7樓).
Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 11am to 6:30pm. Tel: (02) 2711-0055. On the

gardens, running brooks, and

Net: www.artmap.com.tw

► Until April 8

Explore is a group exhibition that includes works by Hubert Cance, Iskren Semkov and Luiz Cavalli. The artists hailing from France, Bulgaria and Brazil use abstraction, expressionism and realism to

"explore" landscape and still life.
▶ X-Power Gallery (影響力藝術中心), 98, Xinyi Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市信義路四段98號). Open Mondays to Thursdays from 11am to 6pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 11am to 8pm.
Tel: (02) 2708-0929. On the Net: www.xpgallery.com.tw
▶ Until March 31

The Yingge Ceramics Museum investigates the human form in **Passionate Beings:**

Contemporary Ceramics of Museum Collection (多情.人—當代 陶藝典藏展), an exhibit of 35 sculptures

from its permanent collection.

Yingge Ceramics Museum (鶯歌陶瓷博物館), 200 Wenhua Rd, Yinge Township, Taipei County (台北縣鶯歌鎮文化路200號). Open Tuesdays to Fridays from 9:30am to 5pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30am to 6pm. Tel: (02) 8677-2727. On the Net: www.ceramics.tpc.gov.tw

Ancient Pottery of the Paiwan Tribe in Taiwan (祖靈的居所—台灣

► Until April 19

排灣族古陶壺特展) shows how ceramics are closely associated with the legends of the Paiwan tribe's origins, and how pottery helps to perpetuate the tribe's social hierarchy.

▶ National Museum of Natural Science (國立自然科學博物館), 1, Kuanchien Rd, Taichung City (台中市館前路1號). Open from 9am to 5pm, closed Mondays. On the Net: www.nmns.edu.tw

▶ Until May 17

The God of Earth in Taiwan (台灣 土地公特展) explains the origins of the Earth God (土地公) and why it continues to play an important role in folk worship throughout the country. ▶ National Museum of Natural Science (國立自然科學博物館), 1, Guancian Rd, Taichung City (台中市館前路1號). Opens from 9am to 5pm, closed Mondays. On the Net: www.nmns.edu.tw ▶ Until May 31

Madden Reality: Post-Taipei Art Group (叛離異象:後台北畫派) brings together 72 works by eight of Taiwan's most well-respected

▶ Taipei Fine Arts Museum (TFAM), 181, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市中山北路三段181號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 9:30am to 5:30pm, closes at 8:30pm on Saturdays. Tel: (02) 2595-7656. On the Net: www.tfam.museum

contemporary artists.

► Until April 5