

Genre benders



Come on in, the water's fine with Chrome Ghost.

BY STEPH RODRIGUEZ / stephr@newsreview.com

nature and Gothic imagery. It's all used to convey a mood through music.

"There is a very romantic tense to the way that everything is presented," he says. "We're not a weed-smoking, whiskey-drinking, hail-Satan type of band at all."

Throughout Chrome Ghost's body of work, including *The Diving Bell* and the band's first EP, *Reflection Pool*, there are recurring themes of water, which is an allegory for anxiety, introspection, isolation, the calm and the chaos.

It all happened organically during Kilgore's writing process, he says, but it was something that Hurst picked up on quickly.

"There's this weird ephemeral quality water has. It's dangerous, but also safe. It's vital," Hurst says. "It's peaceful and terrifying. If you're in the middle of the ocean, you're in the loneliest place in the world."

Chrome Ghost's use of reverb throughout the album creates these grandiose walls of sound that are both fluid and moody, developing an ethereal time warp through songs such as its title track, a dramatic, 14-minute composition.

"You can hide behind these giant waves of sound, but we don't ever stay with that," Kilgore says. "At some point, the smoke clears and then there's a little piece of our identity in there to be seen by changing the dynamic or the lyrics or the mood. Our choices are all very instinctual. It's telling in a way, it's not a performative thing, it's more of an introspective thing."

Chrome Ghost's upcoming album release show on March 19 at Harlow's is with Oregon doom metal band YOB and will mark its first live performance in more than five months. But Kilgore says they've each gained a change of perspective during the break and look forward to an upcoming eight-day tour in May with Aequorea from Nevada City, as well as performing at Litha Cascadia festival in Washington and the Mid-State Metal Fest in San Luis Obispo.

"We're actually bringing back some old songs that we haven't played for a long time and potentially for later on in the year," Kilgore says. "To play these songs is fun, but in the back of my mind, I'm just really excited about what's coming next."

"We never stop," Hurst adds. □

See Chrome Ghost with YOB and Human Impact on March 19 at Harlow's, 8 p.m., \$20-\$25; facebook.com/chromeghostsludge.

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