



# The Trollmusic Chronicles

Inside Information on Trollmusic Artists · published twice in a decade

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## Drawn to the despised in a strange & ugly way.

Andreas Pettersson talks about De Arma's "Lost, Alien & Forlorn".

Interviews with Andreas Pettersson concerning his many bands, projects and involvements are rare. The Swede likes to let the music do the talking and if he answers, he takes his time to do so with focus on the art instead of aiming at a personal cult. The following interview is an excerpt from a longer conversation, here with concrete focus on De Arma.

**Already the spelling hints at the idea that De Arma might go on with something which was already present in Armagedda, yet you hinted at the fact that despite its obvious melancholy De Arma for you captures quite positive moments... Are you every now and then surprised by the different directions in which you move within music, how your perception changes and how you develop?**

The world changes, people change and so does the direction of my music. Even though the thoughts of

writing music the De Arma way where present already ten years ago the interest and motivation to make it happen got swallowed by something else which we already mentioned to many times. If I travel back 15 years I guess I would never had expect myself to record an album like »Lost, Alien & Forlorn.« So if you look at it that way it might be considered surprising. While the music of De Arma is built upon actual happenings in my life which is not related to religion and spiritual matters, Armagedda possessed an essence influenced and nourished by a matter beyond this world.



**What does the split album with Fen mean to you nowadays, especially in regard to the renewed collaboration with Frank and your debut full length album »Lost, Alien & Forlorn«?**

Considering he is now the main vocalist in De Arma it means everything. I also believe that the Fen recording for the split is probably their strongest material up to this date.

**Of course as label manager I'm totally biased when it comes to De Arma, yet this doesn't mean I have to restrict my enthusiasm about your band in my own fanzine... would you agree that »Lost...« contains the most »easy accessible« music you recorded so far which might attract listeners with different background with its strong emotional grasp?**

I guess, yes. We have been celebrated as the new Pet Shop Boys a few times already so maybe that's a sign of De Arma attracting listeners from all kinds of different genres, hah! Seriously though, we hope and aim to reach individuals outside the so called metal scene and I'm most certain we will in the future considering the direction De Arma will take... so in case you're into some melancholic rock you should definitely check out »Lost, Alien & Forlorn.«

**The music of »Dislocated«, probably the »hit single« of »Lost...«, has been written by you and drummer Johan Marklund. Which role does he nowadays play in De Arma and what new influences does he bring with him?**

Oh, »Dislocated« is Johan's work, I barley just

added some arrangements and solo guitars to this track. His role is just as big as mine and De Arma is his main »band«. I believe he will bring fantastic things to De Arma, both with great drumming and immense song-writing. He's an amazing musician and has a good sense of knowing how to play different kinds of musical styles with the correct flow.

**Frank explained that it has been really challenging for him to interpret someone else's composition, but I think all of you can be pretty satisfied**

**with the end result, keeping in mind that Frank was also busy with the recordings for his main band Fen... yet you already agreed upon working closer together for the next album. So I guess the challenges had their encouraging and inspiring effects for all parties?**

Yes, I believe this was a huge challenge for Frank and he came through with bravery. It might not be the easiest thing getting a final mix showed up your face and then succeed with putting down some really attractive vocals without even heard the material beforehand. But by being the genuine artist as I believe is, he had no major concerns with this task. I must also add that Frank is an excellent lyricist which is something I value very much, to succeed with transcending the music into words that couldn't be more appropriate is just mind blowing.

**The artwork of »Lost...« has been contributed by Bjørn Pretzel who has published a remarkable photo art book with the title »Otherworlds – Aestheticism Of The Decline« (translated from German) and who instantly felt drawn to your music when I presented him some of your songs. How about you – do you feel like travelling through similar worlds?**

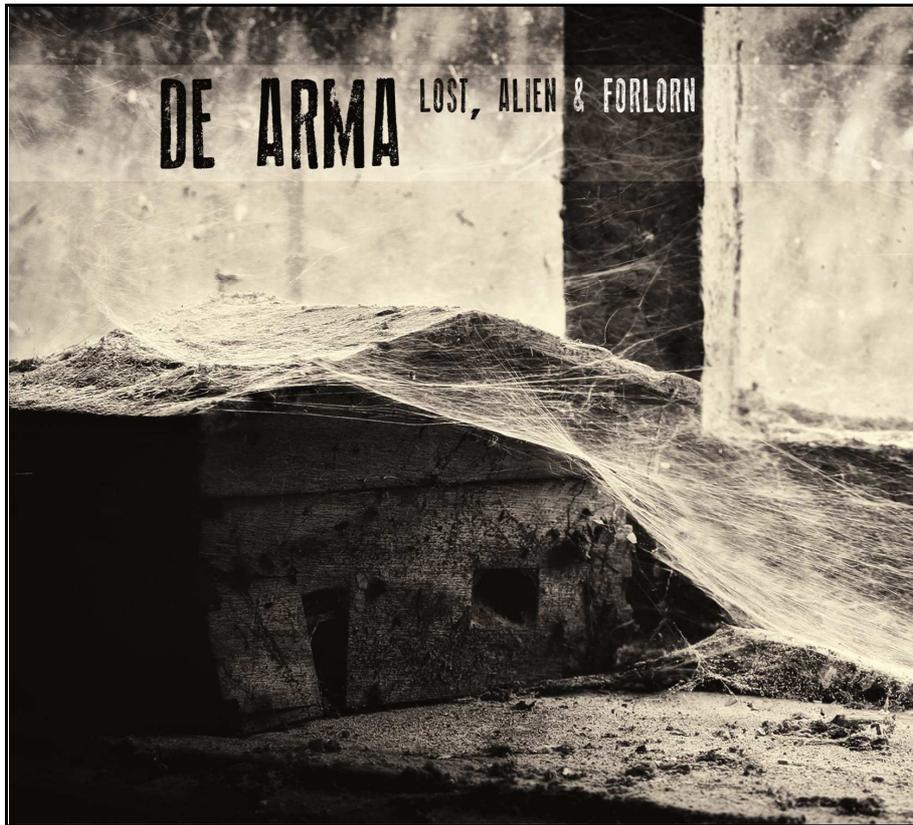
I've always despised cities, being the solitary wilderness freak that I am. Because of this I am truly fascinated with the idea of dead and lifeless cities. It has not happen that often but walking the streets a rainy day surrounded by quiet skyscrapers and other buildings awakes really interesting emotions: Emotions that I feel drawn to in a strange and ugly way. I'm not sure that those feelings are positive though, maybe positive in the

sense of being quite peculiar. Anyways, cities always brought me a destructive life the few times I tried living in them so I try to stay away.

**You already started working on new songs for the next album, out on a pretty infamous label as well. This time you'll work even closer together with Frank, what else can you tell us at this early stage?**

Yes, the aim is to have Frank much more involved during the whole writing process. So far we have been working with six or seven songs and more is starting to take shape. It's all »positive« so far and I believe we shall overcome ourselves with the 2<sup>nd</sup> effort of melancholic music for delusional minds...

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**DE ARMA**  
“Lost, Alien & Forlorn”  
(Troll 002, released February 2013)

Review Quotes:

“If you want to know the sound of sorrow & yearning, listen to this album!”  
15/15 points - Jan Fischer, Legacy

“...the brevity (just seven songs), overwhelming aura, and Allain’s it’s-a-cloudy-day-forever vocals are simply too good to pass on for those who are constantly drawn in by metal of the miserable order. Top-notch stuff; highly, highly recommended.”  
8.5/10 – David E.Gehlke, Deadrhethoric.com

„'Lost, Alien & Forlorn' is wonderful. It's full of melancholy, passion and emotion. Everything fits together and The Watcher's vocals and the drum performance alone make this a must-buy.”  
6.5/7 – Jonathan Jancsary, Metalnews.de

„De Arma have doubtlessly succeeded in recording a hypnotizing cold and melancholic album. Although there are some parallels to other bands, they create their own sound, which makes this a must-listen.”  
Tristan, Alternativmusik.de