

SHOALS


genre bending indie electronica duo

Comprising childhood friends and multi-instrumentalists Utkarsh Varma and Sidharth Gupta, Shoals is a Delhi-based indie electronica duo that refuses to be tied down by a single genre, adding a fresh layer to the electronic music scene in India.

Their sound is an amalgamation of genres and sounds across time, blending different decades of triphop, progressive rock, dance, and hip hop. Intricate grooves and basslines form the backbone of their songs, which are supplemented with dense atmospheric layers and flowing melodies. Their sound is layered intentionally with sparse lyrics, so that the listeners find the creative freedom to derive their own meaning.



Since their formation in 2017, Shoals has independently released two EPs "Mad Turf" and "BossBattle Mixtape Vol.1". These got instant acclaim by reputed publications in the country such as Wild City, Bangin' Beats, and Rolling Stone's weekly editor's pick. They also often compose music for films and ads; the variety of their work keeping their music fresh and inventive. Since the release of their EPs, they have spent time polishing their sound, and unveiled their debut album "Sour Ink" on January 11, 2019. With a strengthened technique and cohesive narrative, Shoals has attempted to create an explosive and innovative album that they hope will bring them closer to their dream of building a legacy of music with substance and depth that stays true to the impact of their heroes. They look forward to playing more intense and electrifying live shows following the album release.



Sidharth Gupta started writing and performing music at an early age influenced by classic rock icons like The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, and Pink Floyd. His desire to acquire a deeper understanding of the art of recording led him to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles where he trained under the Grammy nominated mastering engineer Andrew Garver (A&M Studios, U2, RATM). At the same time, Sidharth was active in the local music scene with his band "Goodkids" where he played the guitar, and had the chance to work with the Grammy winning recording engineer J.J. Blair (Bryan Adams, The Who, etc). Regarding Shoals, he comments, "Experimentation is at the heart of this creative process, and every whimsical idea is entertained in the pursuit of a sound that tells a story." Deeply influenced by Buddhist philosophy and Sufi poetry, his lyrics shed light on the internal existential dialogue that we all experience.

Utkarsh Varma was fascinated by rhythm from a very young age. At the age of three, he had already started learning the tabla, and soon took up drums and guitar. He spent most of his college years recording his own music and studying the various approaches to songwriting. This led him to the music scene in Delhi, where he performed guitar duties for musicians from across genres. His most recent collaboration was with River (Kamakshi Khanna, Tarana Marwaha/Komorebi, and Abhilasha Sinha), with whom he got a chance to perform at the NH7 Weekender. His other collaborations have been with Amartya Ghosh, Shadow and Light, Yatin Srivastava Project and many others. This has allowed him to develop an eclectic music palette, ranging from heavy metal to pop to regional music. Providing an insight to the duo's creative process, he says, "We never try to force ideas; it has always been about letting things happen."



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"SOUR INK"
Debut Album
Listen now (SoundCloud)

