

Cosmos Corbin

Collision at Cloud 9

Oneself Connect and Raging Family join forces at Triomphe.



Cloud 9 featuring Oneself Connect and Raging Family and guests Bel Ami, inside Triomphe, Free

Chic, hanging bulbs, sleek track lighting and two vine-like street lamps gloriously illuminate Bel Ami's incredibly high ceiling, posh bar and spacious dining area. The vastness of the new lounge is nearly breathtaking. Local artist Adam Grosowsky's paintings of dark archways and beautifully pensive women lend a curious yet subdued ambiance to this new restaurant and lounge inside the Triomphe marketplace.

Tucked in the far corner of the room, Oneself Connect co-founder Shawn Kahl coolly rotates the jog dial on his Pioneer CD DJ 800 turntable (commonly referred to as a

CD DJ). It acts like the record platter on a traditional turntable and allows DJ's to manipulate CDs with their hands the same way they would work with vinyl. "We sold our turntables a long time ago and converted everything to CD," Raging Family co-founder Cosmos Corbin says.

Raging Family and Oneself Connect, two of Eugene's oldest DJ collectives host this new Thursday night event named Cloud 9, which combines electronic music with short film and video art. Local DJs and producers of electronic music provide a laid-back soundtrack to the work of various local filmmakers and video jockeys.

The musical side of things focuses on neo-lounge styled electronic music with an emphasis on the new digital mediums used to produce and play the music. Music from artists such as Thievery Corporation and Kruder and Dorfmeister plays alongside original Raging Family and Oneself Connect musical compositions. In addition to DJs, musicians perform original works through laptop computers.

In bigger cities, regular exhibitions of originally-produced electronic music known as "laptop battles" are common. But Cloud 9 is more about creating a friendly atmosphere instead of a competitive one, Kahl says. "We're trying to promote it more like a sharing event, where people can collaborate and feel like they can work with one another."

Because laptop computers are so portable, they're the perfect tool for do-it-yourself electronic musicians and have come to symbolize the new digital revolution in the music. The development of live-performance-friendly digital sound editing and production software such as Ableton Live has inspired many traditional DJs to make the transition from DJing to producing.

In addition, interactive playback software such as Serato Scratch Live gives DJs the ability to take digital music files from a laptop computer and mix them on turntables or CD DJs through encoded vinyl records or compact discs. A couple records and the computer's hard drive now replace the crate-full

of vinyl DJs used to haul around. "Just like anything else you gotta change with the times and you gotta get progressive," Kahl says. "You gotta keep being innovative and keep growing."

Digital technology has also caused a lot of waves in the film and video world. Cody Yarbrough, a UO student and indie-filmmaker who will showcase some of his short films this Thursday at Cloud 9, says digital technology has opened the doors for a lot of new artists. "New digital technology is really democratizing an art form than until now has required so much money to get involved with," he says.

Kahl and Corbin say they're trying to really push this digital film aspect of the night as well, and will feature new filmmakers and video artists each week. **EW**



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