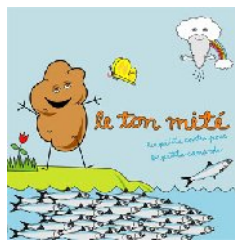


«[LE TON MITÉ](#) est le projet de McCloud Zicmuse, musicien originaire d'Olympia (USA). Ses compositions ou comptines pop élégamment orchestrées vous entraînent dans son univers farfelu et coloré, peuplé de nuages barbus, d'arbres et de bateaux. Sa musique est personnelle et raffinée, riche et épurée, d'une étrange beauté.»

## **Discographie**

2004: We Need To Grow To Giant Size	ZIK 0409.1	CD
2006: Tickets To Real Imaginary Places	ZIK 0603.1	CD/LP
2007: Les petits contes pour les petits canards	LVC 004	7" ep



## **Tournées**

2003.10 mini tour of New York State with THE BLOW, ANNA OXYGEN and PASH  
 2004.07 a few shows with CHEVAL DE FRISE and the GORGE TRIO in the Northwest  
 2004.11 a two week west coast US tour  
 2005.06 a month long tour of France and Italy with NEDELLE, CHOCOLAT BILLY, BOB CORN  
 2005.09 three week North American Tour, as a guitar player for FROG EYES, with YELLOW SWANS and XIU XIU  
 2005.10 a three week North American tour with OLD TIME RELIJUN  
 2006.01 a week on the east coast US with DEERHOOF, L'OCELLE MARE, MARTHA COLBURN, and the LEG AND PANTS DANSE THEEAATRE  
 2006.02 a three week west coast US tour with L'OCELLE MARE  
 2006.04 a month long tour of France and Italy with L'OCELLE MARE  
 2006.06 a week in France with RADIKAL SATAN  
 2006.10 three weeks in France, Belgium and The Netherlands, with a group version of LE TON MITÉ.  
 2007.03 a month long tour in Italy, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Belgium with L'OCELLE MARE and THE BREEZY DAYS BAND



Photo: M. Calvin Mills



Photo: Kenneth Andrew Mroczek

## Presse

### **GÖTEBORG 2007 iii 16**

Annat är det då med Le ton mité, bestående av McCloud Zicmuse. Han sjunger på franska trots att han bor i Amerika och det där med franskan gör att man förflyttas ner i Metron, till rummen där det ekar fint. Hundarna gnyr, pockar på uppmärksamhet innan de lägger sig fint bredvid den ensamme artisten. McCloud levererar den här kvällen sina melodier på elgitarr, ibland kör han helt acapella. Då blir det extra vackert och vi sjunger med honom. Tror att de förarlösa franska tunnelbanetågen saktar ner och låter sina passagerare ta del av Le ton mité.

På det stora hela är det väldigt vackert, ensamt sorgset och platsar perfekt in i Café Publiks nya kakel inredning. De hade kunnat vara en film av Jacques Tati. McCloud verkar vara en genuin person. En vandrande individ som blir en institution där nere i underjorden, dit endast tänkare flyr.

<http://musikenligtjerry.blogspot.com/2007/03/jorden-runt-med-hund.html>

### **MONTPELIER 2006 v 04**

Mais avant, vient le tour de Monsieur Le Ton Mité. Il s'installe par terre sur une tenture avec une guitare électrique et son t-shirt orange. Devant lui, un pied de micro surmonté d'une guirlande lumineuse. Il sort des petits bonhommes en papier et les pose devant lui en cercle. Il commence à balancer un petit accord et demande à Tomas d'un mouvement de tête d'éteindre la lumière. Je parlais plus tôt d'un camp de hippies mais là c'est Woodstock sous LSD et je suis gentil, cette scène aurait pu être dans Las Vegas parano ! Le Ton qui parle très bien français, malgré ces origines états-uniennes, nous embarque dans un spectacle proche d'une féerie grotesque et d'un spectacle de clown en fin de carrière. Chaque personnage en papier semble exister et prend place dans chacune des chansons, d'ailleurs tout le monde participe, l'ambiance intimiste permet à chaque bruit de la pièce et du public de s'intégrer aux quelques accords de guitare et au chant en japonais, en français ou en anglais. Le musicien arrive à en jouer et le public aussi. Ainsi quelques personnes chantonnent ou font des sons avec leur bouche et le tout participe à créer une ambiance bon enfant, me poussant parfois à sourire et même à rire. Le lieu (une vieille cave en pierres voûtée) se prête très bien à une telle atmosphère. Le concert finit mollement, laissant le public joyeux, surpris et content d'avoir participé à une soirée aussi particulière.

En discutant avec Tomas de L'Ocelle Mare (qui tourne en ce moment avec Le Ton Mité) je comprends que chaque concert du Ton est unique, que chaque lieu de spectacle offre des ambiances différentes et que de ce fait tous les concerts de notre ami mité sont différents. Curieuse soirée ! Je rentre vite à la maison pour écrire ça avant d'oublier dans quel état d'esprit j'étais en sortant du Full gnawa. Au risque de me répéter : Curieuse soirée !

<http://www.nextclues.com/>

### **TON OF FUN**

Le Ton Mité sees the vibrant colors and broken tones of the present

By Jason Cassidy

## **THE FUTURE IS NOW**

McCloud Zicmuse of Le Ton Mité wealds one of his guitars made by his father. The artist/musician will make the audience part of the band at the 1078 Gallery.

Courtesy Of Le Ton Mité

Preview: Le Ton Mité, L'Ocelle Mare & Aubrey Debauchery 1078 Gallery Thurs., Feb. 16, 8pm (doors, 7:30pm) Cost: \$5

[www.myspace.com/letonmite](http://www.myspace.com/letonmite)<http://musikenligtjerry.blogspot.com/2007/03/jorden-runt-med-hund.html>

[www.myspace.com/ocellemare](http://www.myspace.com/ocellemare)

[www.1078gallery.org](http://www.1078gallery.org)

[www.zicmuse.com](http://www.zicmuse.com)

### **What the hell's a Zicmuse?**

"Zicmuse stands as the progenitor of what is happening now. I aim to unify disciplines: graphic design, music, literature and fashion. I offer a lifestyle consciousness that captures the present and assists people, like you, in displaying your contact with today."

That third/first-person definition comes straight from the mission statement of Zicmuse himself. That would be McCloud Zicmuse, the Olympia, Wash. artist who makes music and clothing, prints posters and business cards and loves color as much as Vincent Van Gogh. In a recent interview for New York Magazine, he went so far as to say, "I find color to be the most satisfying thing on earth. Not better than sex, but a great complement."

Under the moniker of Le Ton Mité ("the moth-eaten tone") Zicmuse plays a spiky, off-kilter brand of folk music that manages to be both experimental and intimate. He has a new CD, Tickets to Real Imaginary Places, on a couple of French labels, and has just finished a tour of the East Coast with the Bay Area's Deerhoof. He's now touring with French act L'Ocelle Mare, and in anticipation of his the upcoming Chico show we had a few questions for the colorful aesthete.

Where are you from originally?

Le Ton Mité started as a cassette tape in 1998 in Little Rock, Ark. It grew into a band in 2001 in Olympia, Wash., and started touring in 2004.

Besides the music and tour, what are you working on now?

I am working on a DVD compilation of my Super 8 films with soundtracks by various artists, an installation of artwork at the Department of Safety, in Anacortes, Wash., and am constantly working on making the future.

You describe your music as "songs you wish you heard as a child." Can you explain?

I think I should change it to read, "songs I hear." They are not fantasies, they are simple songs about real experiences. Or, better yet, "."The word "broken" comes up a lot regarding your stuff (broken music, broken folk).

In what ways is your music broken?

It is not pop. The notes are not always "right." It defies easy explanation and therefore is broken. I think it is easier for people to have an emotional experience (good bad, etc.) than it is to succinctly define what is going on. It is a band with only one visible member and many invisible ones. Plus, if the old adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" is true, I am constantly fixing, reworking, making variations and revising the music and the band.

Therefore it must be broken.

Your dad makes your guitars--can you tell me about them?

They are unique, simple creations, made with natural woods. They are my good friends, and sound more like pianos than guitars. The guitars and I have a fairly good relationship. I keep them in tune and they keep me in line.

The ideas behind your art: illuminating and connecting with the present, etc. Do you think people are getting it? Have you seen people being affected by what you put out there? How so?

I think that people who witness Le Ton Mité experience a communal connection to the moment, to the point that they forget they are at a rock show. I feel that I am lucky to have the experiences I am blessed with every day, and that to share these is very important. I have seen people strongly affected by Le Ton Mité shows. People who listen to Le Ton Mité range from 13 to 73 years old, so reactions range from, "you are funny and awesome" to "your music has opened up new paths of thought in my mind that I did not think were possible."

It is interesting to balance musicality and performance. Le Ton Mité says, "Relax, we are all in this together." I think the biggest secret is that the audience is part of the band. In Boston, I sang an improvised duet with an audience member, "you make circles in the sky." The crowd was very loud, but the people who were there with Le Ton Mité were there together and we made a memorable experience and by the end brought in the rest of the crowd for the ride.

What would be your ideal fantasy project that would bring together all of your ideas, ideals and disciplines into one huge experience?

Something like a bookmobile. A traveling environmental experience: A zicmobile, or a planet like Titan but warmer.

Tell me about what is happening today?

I just spent a week touring with Deerhoof on the East Coast, I enjoyed the company of friends and making new ones, so today, I am recuperating and running errands in preparation for the West Coast tour that starts tomorrow. I am thinking of L'Ocelle Mare performing at the First Unitarian Church in Philadelphia, the camaraderie of Martha and Anne in the van over there, and happy to have shared a home cooked breakfast this morning

[chico news & review](#)

## **LILLE 11 mai 2006 [PHOTOS](#)**

Enfin, Le Ton Mité s'est lancé dans un spectacle minimaliste et hilarant. Mais ne vous y trompez-pas : son dernier album est un bijou de musique folle et poétique, et sa prestation n'en était qu'une pantomime... J'attends un authentique concert de notre ami McCloud.

<http://rapportskymarshall.free.fr/concerts/concerts.htm>

## **LILLE 03 novembre 2006 [PHOTOS](#)**

Puis décollage au pays de la poésie onirique et des rêves de McCloud Zicmuse et sa troupe du Ton Mité (incluant le batteur de Radikal Satan) : différent de l'album, peut être plus barré, mais tout aussi original et inclassable. Un moment parfait, si les contraintes d'horaires ainsi qu'une grappe de zozos torchés et bruyants n'avaient un rien écourté la fête.

<http://rapportskymarshall.free.fr/concerts/concerts.htm>

Le Ton Mite è una bizzarra e pazza lezione di storia tra chitarre acustiche e non, un vero frullatore di generi.

Si va da intrusivi giri di chitarra a strane filastrocche accompagnate da battimani fuori sincro.. pazzo e scatenato.

<http://www.wakeupmusic.splinder.com/archive/2006-04>

Ah, a pomeriggio ho conosciuto Le Ton Mite', che mi ha parlato di S.Martino Spino, di Nedelle e della Fooltribe. E' un personaggio assolutamente ilare e adorabile, dovrete vederlo e credo, a quanto mi ha detto, che lo vedrete tra non troppo dalle vostre parti. Io qui lo sentiro' dal vivo domenica. Il fatto che io fossi italiana lo ha emozionato parecchio, mi ha cantato per un certo lasso di tempo una canzone che recitava "siamo tutti rincoglioniti". In italiano, si.

Ieri sera sono entrata nella vita notturna di Olympia. Sono uscita coi colleghi e con un'ottantina dei loro coinquilini (io ne ho solo una e l'ho vista solo una sera, che il giorno dopo e' partita, ma torna domani). Abbiamo tutti bevuto troppo. Ho ringraziato il cielo che anche i miei colleghi di lavoro siano eccessivi e sregolati. E che il giorno dopo ci si possa raccontare con franchezza del proprio postumo, guardandosi dritti nelle occhiaie.

Per concludere, voglio solo dirvi che mi rendo perfettamente conto del fatto che questo post sembri un tema da ginnasio statale. E' che, onestamente, quando la normalita' diventa improvvisamente eccezionale - nel senso letterale, di novita' e diversita' - viene voglia di speculare verbosamente persino su cio' che e' monotono per antonomasia: la propria routine. Ma prima o poi la normalita' si riprendera' il suo statuto e l'eccezionalita' al suo. Ed allora l'ispirazione tornera'. Oh, lo so che tornera'.

<http://autorun.splinder.com/archive/2006-01>

How to...Create a Cultural District (and Have it Vanish Into the Morning Mists of Dawn)

Upon approaching the truck we found that two exhibits were underway at the same time. Del Pesco's posters were displayed inside the truck with blue tape, and sitting cross-legged in the far corner of the truck was a spry bald man with interesting glasses and an old acoustic guitar. This is McCloud Zicmuse, a troubadour who sings songs from the northland, and his project (or alter ego?) is Le Ton Mite, music in a genre described as Broken Folk. Zicmuse comments on the impetus of his songwriting:

We live in a time when to dream is an act of sedition. These songs are stories meant to share the love of life and to promote the proactive change of the world through that power.

The one-man performance that followed was my favorite piece in the 3am vanishing cultural district. Zicmuse was animated, direct, and playful. His lively songs and one-word lyrics had an unexpected impact. His enthusiastic and impassioned presentation was genuine and compelling. And you had to laugh when he started jumping up and down (most of the songs). The network of associations he was able to generate by linking together single words was truly astounding. His lyrics left huge open spaces in which the viewer could imagine their own connections. I managed to stop laughing enough to transcribe them:

Zicmuse's 4 or 5 song set culminated with an unaccompanied sing-a-long about riding a bus. Zicmuse implored the audience to participate by singing the only two lyrics with him: Woah (ascending) and Woah (descending). The process was guided by Zicmuse's construction paper bus. When it was going up the hill you sang the ascending Woah, and when it went down you sang the descending Woah. At the end of the song Zicmuse grabbed his guitar and fled the produce truck as if chased by angry hornets.

[http://www.portlandart.net/archives/2005/08/taking\\_place\\_di\\_1.html](http://www.portlandart.net/archives/2005/08/taking_place_di_1.html)

**McCloud Zicmuse, Aesthete**

**"I find color to be the most satisfying thing on earth. Not better than sex, but a great complement."**

\* By Amy Larocca

What do you do?

I'm an artist, musician, and letterpress printer. I press ephemera, business cards, posters, record covers, invitations. And I sing French children's songs. The name of my band is Le Ton Mité, which means "the moth-eaten tone."

Do you play for children?

No, mainly for adults. I'm playing the Bowery Ballroom in January. I sing songs about, like, a really nice summer when I swam in phosphorescent water and walked around the dunes.

Why do you sing in French?

Because of my fascination with French culture. Spending time in Canada got me started. I was finally invited to play in a festival in France, so I see what I'm doing as developing a cross-continental relationship.

Do you always wear such bright colors?

I used to live in Olympia, Washington. And when there's clouds in the sky all the time, you learn how to be your own sun, to emit energy and light. I find color to be the most

satisfying thing on earth. Not better than sex, but a great complement.

Do you have a favorite color?

Orange, yellow, baby blue, and a green that's a little darker than chartreuse: 95 percent yellow, 4 percent blue, and 1 percent black.

Are you synaesthetic?

To a certain degree, but it's more emotional. It crosses into the realm of the psyche rather than taste or hearing. I find that there's a lot of sharing between the visual and the songs that I write.

You must have loved The Gates.

It was pretty good. I'm glad that Christo can make a living doing that. I'm glad he's not on the street or something. But I don't feel a strong bond. It's more like a visual high five.

[new york magazine](#)

Le Ton Mite, basically is the one-man band of McCloud Zicmuse.

Le Ton Mite, whose music Zicmuse characterizes as "broken folk," will perform "tickets to real imaginary places" -- with cardboard cutouts displayed in the window of Archibald Sisters during fall's Arts Walk.

"The songs kind of delve into mythologies constructed on real events," Zicmuse said. "It's exploratory of the line between imagination and day to day."

[the olympian](#)

Le Ton Mite had the demeanor, and the bright orange smock, of a fifth-grade art teacher. His bite-sized vignettes, sung softly in English and occasionally en français, were illustrated with laminated paper shapes that took turns dangling from a microphone stand. An orange moon rose, a bus ran out of gas, and a tree fell suddenly, all in an idyllic landscape populated by deer and clouds with beards and faceless people in bathing suits. Le Ton Mite had the crowd supply the uh huh's for a song, and accommodated one audience member's demands for a duet, inviting him onstage and singing the possibly extemporaneous "You Put Circles In The Sky."

[http://www.bostonist.com/archives/2006/01/27/concert\\_review\\_deerhoof\\_adorable\\_friends.php](http://www.bostonist.com/archives/2006/01/27/concert_review_deerhoof_adorable_friends.php)

[www.zicmuse.com](http://www.zicmuse.com)