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Rosenheim, a small town in the German region of Bavaria, they feel that their geographic location helps insulate them from musical pressure. Fakesch says, "We just concentrate on what we are doing; nobody tells us, 'Hey, you have to check out this new trend, you should go see this band.' We are totally on our own. We are really isolated, which is good because it lets you concentrate on your music."

Hip-hop is one influence that Funkstörung has allowed into the studio. Several of the new album's tracks, such as "Chopping Heads," set raps over the group's brand of techy hip-hop. Fakesch acknowledges this but maintains, "We didn't need to live in America to get a hip-hop influence. You can find music anywhere." In fact, he says, he and De Luca have been listening to hip-hop for over 15 years.

The album's title track is a metallic folk song in which the soulful Enik lazily describes surreal landscapes. "We always wanted to do pop songs," says Fakesch, who notes that "Disconnected" was the first instrumental they wrote. After trying two other singers, they found the right combination with Enik, and as a result the track "became the prototype for the album." Funkstörung say they chose it as a single because of the music, the lyrics, and the unusual vocal style.

In this record there is less emphasis on programming than in previous Funkstörung outings; Fakesch and De Luca say they don't know how their fans will react to this departure. They note, however, that their earlier remix work indicated a move in this direction. In addition, they say that they've always been open to working with vocals and acoustic instruments and have never concealed the fact that they liked pop music as well as hip-

hop. With this album they took risks and were aware that some fans might turn away, but felt that it was important for them to develop their style.

Fakesch sees a continuity despite the change, saying that the duo is proud that they "managed to find a new sound without losing our original Funkstörung flavor." With "Disconnected," the pair have brought their new vision to fruition: "We had a kind of picture in our heads [of] how the album should sound, and we worked extremely hard to meet this picture. We are very, very happy and proud that we managed to get really close to what we had in mind."

*Funkstörung plans to perform both older and newer material with a live band and a visual artist when they tour Europe in May and the United States and Japan in June. For more information on the project, see [www.funkstörung.com](http://www.funkstörung.com).*

