

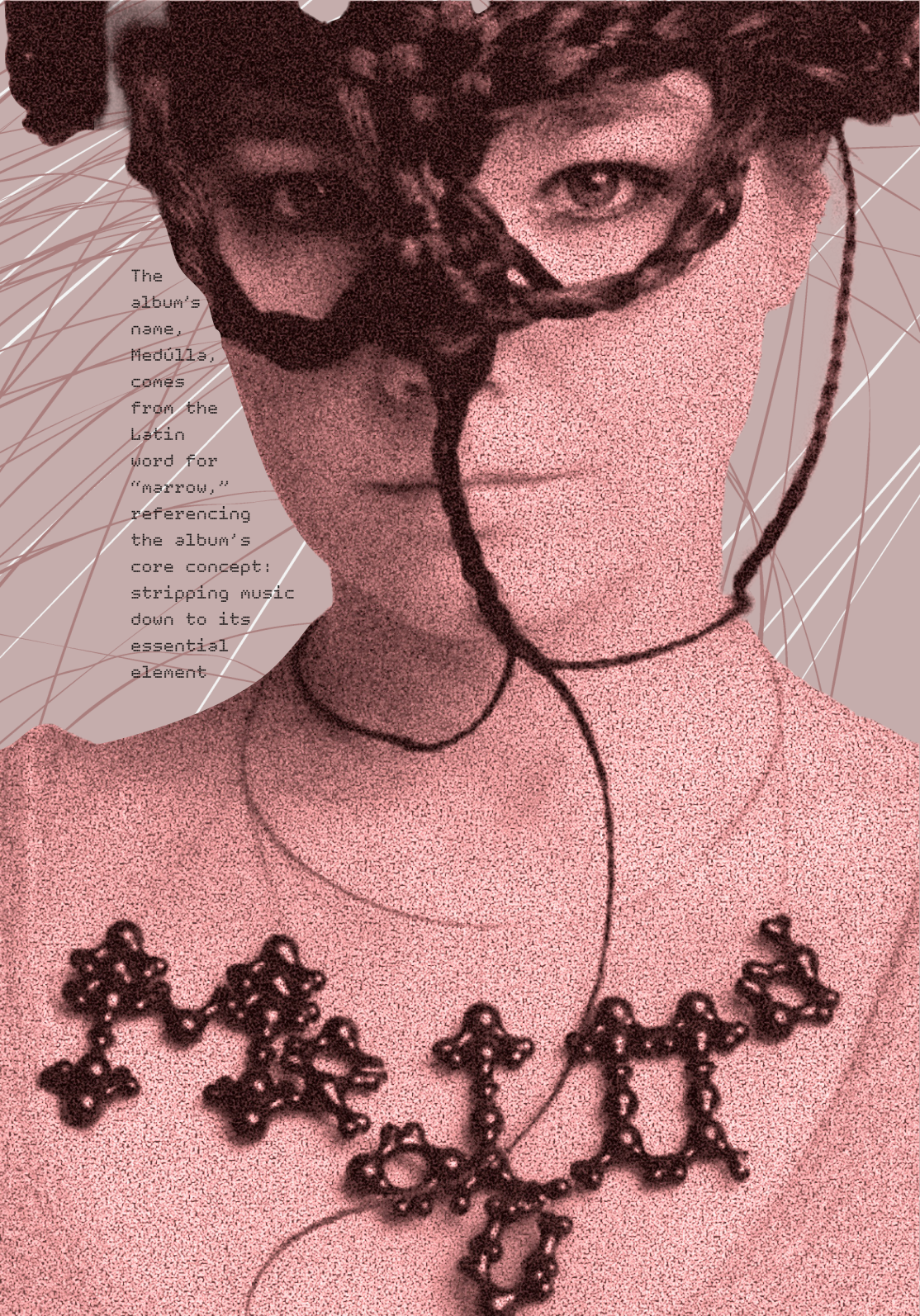
Medúlla

by Björk

with  
The Sugarcubes

Medúlla centers almost entirely on human voices rather than traditional instruments, pushing Björk's artistry in new directions. The journey of creating Medúlla was both an introspective exploration and an extraordinary collaboration that blended avant-garde influences with vocal traditions from around the world.





The album's name, Medúlla, comes from the Latin word for "marrow," referencing the album's core concept: stripping music down to its essential element

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## Context

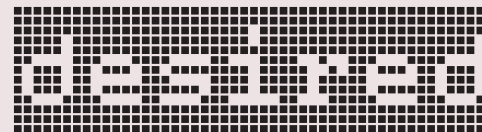
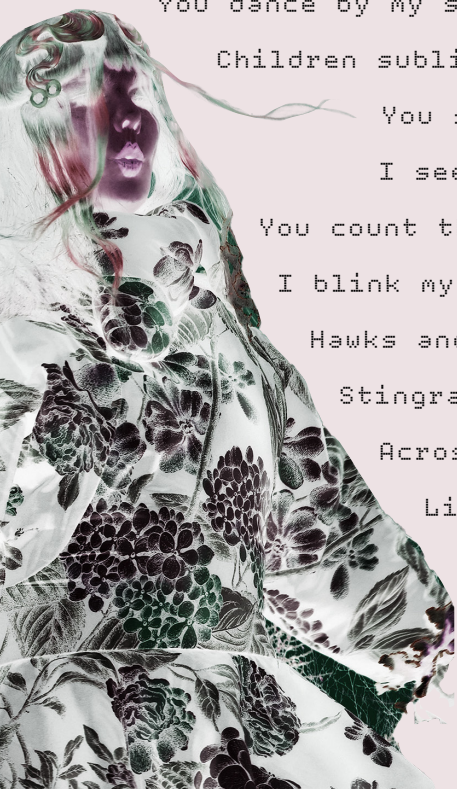
F following her 2001 album Vespertine, Björk had already started exploring themes of intimacy, vulnerability, and subtlety in her music, a departure from the bold, beat-heavy sounds of her earlier work. Vespertine had a delicately textured sound, filled with microbeats and whispered vocals, foreshadowing the organic, raw aesthetic that she would dive into with Medúlla. However, Medúlla would shift from Vespertine's intricate digital minimalism to something primal, focusing almost entirely on the human voice.

.... ..  
.... ..





One breath away  
from Mother Oceania  
Your nimble feet make prints in my sands  
You have done good for yourselves  
Since you left my wet embrace  
And crawled ashore  
Every boy is a snake, is a lily  
Every pearl is a lynx, is a girl  
Sweet-like harmony made into flesh  
You dance by my side  
Children sublime  
You show me continents  
I see islands  
You count the centuries  
I blink my eyes  
Hawks and sparrows race in my waters  
Stingrays are floating  
Across the sky  
Little ones, my sons and my  
daughters  
Your sweat is salty

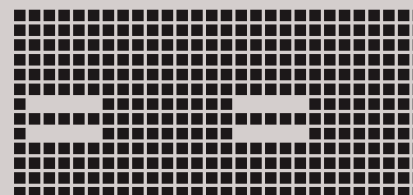
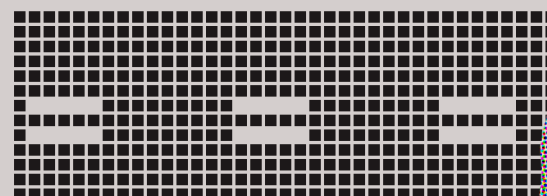
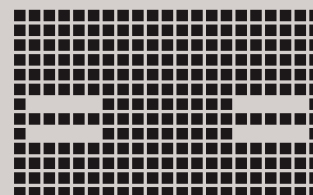
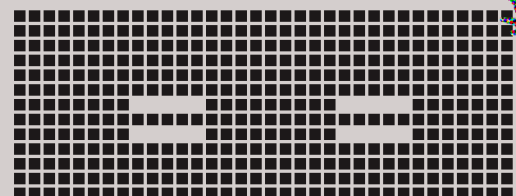
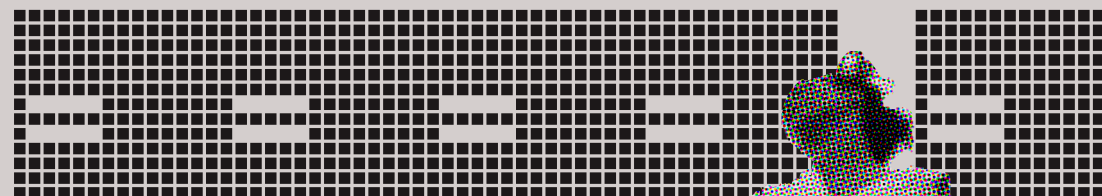
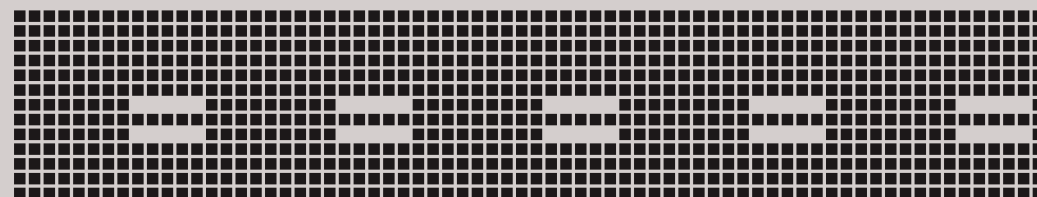


It's tricky when  
you feel someone  
Has done something  
On your behalf It's  
slippery when Your  
sense of justice  
Murmurs underneath  
And is asking you:  
How am I going to  
make it right? How  
am I going to make  
it right? With a  
palm full of stars  
I throw them like  
dice (repeatedly)





Although MedÚlla relied heavily on the human voice, Björk employed advanced recording and production techniques to manipulate the vocal samples and make them resemble instruments. Working with producer Mark Bell and sound engineer Valgeir Sigurðsson, she transformed beatboxing, throat singing, and layered harmonies into sonic landscapes that replaced synthesizers and traditional instrumentation. One key to the album's sound was the use of looping and layering, allowing individual voices to build complex textures and atmospheres. Björk's meticulous attention to detail in vocal manipulation allowed her to transform vocal samples into something that transcended traditional singing, achieving sounds that listeners often mistook for electronic or instrumental elements.





Where

Where

Show

Where

Line

Show

Where is  
the line with  
you? Where is the  
line with you?  
Where is the line  
with you? Where is  
the line with you?  
My purse, wide  
open you ask again

I see you try-  
ing to cash into  
accounts everywhere  
Where is the line  
with you? Where is  
the line with you?  
Where is the line  
with you? Where is  
the line with you?

Show  
me  
forgiveness  
For  
having  
lost  
faith  
in  
myself  
and  
let  
my  
own  
interior  
up  
to  
inferior  
forces  
The  
shame  
is  
endless  
But  
if  
soon  
start  
forgiveness  
The  
girl  
might  
live

Show me forgiveness  
For having lost faith  
in myself and let my  
own interior up to  
inferior forces  
The shame is endless  
But if soon start  
forgiveness  
The girl might live



