**Phillip Bracken**

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***‘With an intense and intriguing voice Bracken expresses himself with effortless ease. Through lyrics. Through mantras. And always like a magnet.’ - Teraz Rock Magazine***

*…..It’s May, 2012. Spring in the small Polish city of Opole. Australian songwriter Phillip Bracken is seated opposite his future father in law in the elder man’s living room. Cables run from the Australian’s guitar and microphone into a small console where Władek, a retired sound engineer, monitors the sound levels. They are recording, between sips of homemade liqueur for “talent”, a demo that will introduce Bracken to some remarkable local musicians…..*

Known for his evocative voice, warm stage presence, and a style that is both familiar and fresh, Phillip Bracken was born in Gosford, Australia. Before finally settling in Sydney as a teenager he spent many years moving around with his family. It’s perhaps this early travel that set him on course to relocate with his own family to Poland in 2013.

A self proclaimed late musical bloomer Bracken wouldn’t take up songwriting until in his mid-twenties releasing his first EP, *Everything Looks Better in Candlelight* in 2008 at the age of 27. Likened to Ben Harper, David Grey, Nick Drake, and Jeff Buckley to name a few it was his spin on indie folk and ambient world music that brought about his introduction to Polish ethno jazz icon Jacek Mielcarek and led to two live recordings, *The Opole Session (2012),* and *Live at Radio Opole (2015)*, as well as subsequent touring.

The latest offering from the Australian is the genre crossing debut album **Wolf Ahead Tiger Behind**. Backed by the masterful trio of Mateusz Szemraj (Lion Shepherd, MOSAIC), Denis Dubiella (Hanimal), Wojciech Lubertowicz (Adam Strug, Masala Soundsystem) *Wolf Ahead Tiger Behind* takes a sonic voyage through funk, ambient folk, alt-country, indie-folk/rock and noir where delicate harmonies and ethereal banjos are pitted against punchy guitar lines and swirling organs.

***“Once in a while a debut album comes out that will blow you completely upside down”. - Peter Marinus, Bluestown Music***

Commenting on the title, Bracken explained it’s inspired by a Chinese proverb. “It’s a reminder not to fear everything around us lest we achieve nothing”. An adage seemingly echoed through the album’s themes and varying sounds and, while not a concept album, perhaps pertinent to the times.

As well as access to a wider audience in Europe his new home has brought about some interesting opportunities. 2019 saw his single New Black picked up by Polish label KAYAX as part of their project My Name Is New as well as a guest appearance on the award winning album Smack by Polish guitarist/producer Robert Cichy.

Although touring opportunities have been limited until recently the pandemic still proved fruitful. A handful of intimate solo concerts in Poland were recorded by Bracken’s good friend Grzegorz Gołębiowski. Completely acoustic, a limited run of the recordings are planned for release on the label ***OKOUCHO Recordings***. Elsewhere, the Australian’s music featured as part of the narrative on ***Not Alone***, a short film by Jay Finocchiaro and Mycel Scheuer which premiered at the Raindance film festival in London in November 2021. Currently, Bracken is collaborating with Italian producer and composer Silvia Furlani on her forthcoming album ***Riptide***due out in 2023*.*

***Wolf Ahead Tiger Behind*** is out now on all streaming services.

www.phillipbrackenmusic.com

***‘Anyone who has had the opportunity to listen to Bracken knows how special this artist is. He freely combines folk, blues and soul, with the best traditions of songwriting. Live his music sounds exquisite and accompanied by guest musicians both the energetic and melancholic songs of Phillip are even more colourful.’ -Wojciech Zurek,*** [***www.e-splot.pl***](http://www.e-splot.pl/)