

One of our favorite mantras at Wet Dreams Recordings is “The first shall be last, and the last shall be first”, this sentiment is the raw definition of X14 (pronounced Z-I-A) and his journey through life and music. X14 is a highly functional unhinged young man with a burning desire to build and destroy, but at the same time he is a stray dog tucked away in a corner of a building in downtown Johannesburg, trying to avoid the rain, trying to get something to eat, trying to find a home.

There’s a bit of X14 in all of us.

X14, real name Mohale Motlali or just Mo to his friends, possesses a consistent and intense silent disposition, and it's always hits you by surprise how raw, loud and engaging his sound can be. X14 is a rare musical gem from the Johannesburg scene that will undoubtedly be one of the most important voices to come out of South Africa in recent years. 2020 was highly momentous with X14 being played on Das Kapital's In Das We Trust show on 5FM, being featured on Machine Woman's Resident Advisor chart for March 2020 at #3 on Machine Woman's Rinse FM show.

“I want to burn it all to the ground and cook something beautiful on the fire” - X14

Gifted with the ability to work with various musical genres, X14 finds his place in the left field Dance genre. With influences from the likes of Johann Johansson, DJ Cleo, Timbaland, Miles Davis and a touch of his Sotho/Xhosa heritage, X14’s sound is locally unique and globally deviant in nature. It can be a bit difficult to digest for the uninitiated, but it’s like drinking beer, tastes weird the first few times then all of the sudden it colonises your taste buds and soul.