

CAUSE YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL



DEATHRO & THE BREATH

US TOUR '23 WITH BAD ANXIETY

NOVEMBER

1st (wed)	Atlanta
2nd (thu)	Birmingham
3rd (fri)	Hattiesburg
4th (sat)	Oklahoma City
5th (sun)	Denver

THE BREATH (JAPAN)
DEATHRO (JAPAN)
BAD ANXIETY (HATTIESBURG)
BAELTISCIE AX
ROC ARCH
 + SPECIAL GUEST

ATL NOV 1 7PM \$12 ALL AGES

AT THE DRUM
 HE KALPE
 DAVID
 WALKER
 MATTY
 BRY

THE BREATH & DEATHRO (JAPAN)

+ B.O.R.N. +
 + BAD ANXIETY +
 + DEVALUED + (FLORIDA)

show 'em how it's done!

FIREHOUSE

11/2 \$15 PWYC DOOR 7PM SHOW 7:30

JAPANESE ROCK + HARDCORE IN HATTIESBURG

DEATHRO (KANAGAWA ROCK SCENESHOW)
THE BREATH (TOKYO HARDCORE REALITY)

BAD ANXIETY SKINMAN
 DEFLUO CERVUS

AT FAT CAT 309 MCLEOD 7PM \$10 ALL AGES! NOVEMBER 3RD

PLUSHIE (KANSAS)
THE BREATH (HATTIESBURG)
DEATHRO (HATTIESBURG)
89TH STREET

NOVEMBER 4TH

CONVULSE RECORDS PRESENTS

THE BREATH (FROM SYDNEY) (JC FROM JAPAN)
DEATHRO (PUNK ROCK FROM JAPAN)
BAD ANXIETY (RIPPING PUNK FROM MISSISSIPPI)
THE OLIVE
Ukko's Hammer

NOVEMBER 5TH - 7PM SEVENTH CIRCLE MUSIC COLLECTIVE \$15 + MEMBERSHIP

THE BREATH & DEATHRO with BAD ANXIETY US Southern-Midwest tour 2023 Diary

DEATHRO & THE BREATH

US TOUR '23
WITH BAD ANXIETY

NOVEMBER

1st (wed)	Atlanta
2nd (thu)	Birmingham
3rd (fri)	Hattiesburg
4th (sat)	Oklahoma City
5th (sun)	Denver

prologue

First off, I want to express my gratitude to Ryan for organizing this 100% pure Underground DIY Hardcore Punk tour, to BAD ANXIETY for accompanying us, to DEATHRO, Ito, and Makoto for joining us, and to everyone else involved.

It all started at Yokohama Studio Olive on March 11, 2023. It was the Yokohama show of the JUDY AND THE JERKS (hereafter referred to as JUDY) Japan tour, organized by M.A.Z.E. and presented as a BLACK HOLE Show. We were also invited to perform by THE BREATH.

I had been aware of JUDY since before their visit to Japan, having seen some cool live footage from one of their house shows. I was looking forward to their live performance, as I had been following the tour's progress on social media. Furthermore, I heard that members of NAG were also accompanying them, and I hoped to have a chance to talk to them if possible.

On the day, THE BREATH had first live performance of 2023. I believe we were the third act. I think we did quite well.

When JUDY's set, the headlining act, began, I found myself at the front of the crowd amidst the moshing chaos a few songs in. Just as there was a break between songs, Hampton spotted me and, not as part of his MC, But said, "Your band is good!" I was taken aback, thinking, "What, during a live show?" But I was really happy.

After the show, I had the chance to speak with Ryan, a member of NAG who had organized this tour and even played drums for THE BREATH. He showed me a video of a house show they could do in the basement of Hampton and Sarah's house. I shared that I had once done a house show in Richmond with my previous band and how great house shows are. We had a lively conversation.

That night, I accompanied Judy and the others as they stayed at BLACK HOLE HQ.

I believe DEATHRO and YFFI cooked dinner for us.

Ryan mentioned, "If you want to do a US tour, I'll organize it. Let's do it!" I was thrilled and, of course, answered, "SURE!"

However, such conversations often don't turn into reality. While Ryan is a genuinely great guy, I didn't take the tour talk too seriously.

The day after the Yokohama show was the last day of the JUDY tour in Koiwa, so I went to hang out.

I ended up accidentally matching KAGAMI shirts with Ryan, and DEATHRO electrified the crowd with a TV-style performance, bringing the tour to a fantastic close. JUDY's live performance was also excellent.

That's how the JUDY and M.A.Z.E. tour wrapped up. About a week after everyone returned home, I got a message from Ryan asking, "So, when's good for the tour?"

I was shocked... Was he serious about doing this?

Maybe it wasn't a coincidence that this DIY US tour started from Studio Olive, a small studio with a capacity of 20-30 people.



Day6 Back to Japan

Woke up around 5:30 AM to get ready for departure. It seems Makoto didn't take a shower the day before, giving off a real US tour vibe. Said goodbye to Nick, who had been so kind to us, in front of his house. Truly grateful. I'm deeply thankful for all the people who supported the tour by hosting us, booking shows, making merchandise, and more.

It took about 30-40 minutes by car to Denver Airport. The weather was clear again today. Inside the van, under the morning sun, there was an emotional atmosphere, a stark contrast to the liveliness of the previous days. Maybe I was the only one who felt that way.

These five days were short but every moment was fun and valuable. It was like a dream tour that ended in a blink. I noticed, but won't say who, some members were tearing up.

We made it through the traffic to the airport. At the last moment, we decided to take a final photo in front of a banner we hadn't photographed until

then.

DEATHRO said, "I never say Good-Bye, See you again." Indeed, it felt like we would meet again soon.

After parting at the airport, everyone continued to wave until we were out of sight. Such beautiful people.

Wrap up

Everyone returned to Japan without any health issues. Usually, I get sick after going abroad, so this was a big deal for me, haha.

I managed to control my sleep on the plane to minimize jet lag, and it worked wonderfully. I didn't have any jet lag after returning.

Now at home, I have a bunch of American snacks, gummies, biscuits, chips, and gum recommended and bought from various places on the tour.

Sorry...They don't really suit my taste, so they aren't being consumed quickly, but every time I see them, they remind me of the tour. It might be nice to keep them on the shelf forever.

day 0

Woke up around 8 am since the flight from Haneda was at 1 pm. Thought I was all set to go, but last-minute chaos ensued as I tried to lighten my overly heavy luggage. Plus, I couldn't catch a taxi and ended up walking to the station.

Even after lightening, the luggage was still heavy, and I arrived at the airport with a sore back.

First, I met up with DEATHRO. He was already high-spirited. It's his first time abroad, but he seems to know their way around airplanes.

Joined by Ito and Makoto, we embarked on our flight. The airport was surprisingly empty, making baggage check-in and security a breeze. It seemed like it would be a comfortable journey to LA. Bought Wi-Fi on the plane – a good decision as it worked quite well. Chatted, worked, and had in-flight meals before sleeping. Woke up a few hours later to DEATHRO saying, "There's trouble."

Apparently, our connecting flight from LA to Atlanta was delayed by 6 hours.

We considered changing to a different route for free. Decided to go via Chicago, which would take

longer but get us there quicker.

At LAX, a bit of a scramble with baggage, but we managed the connection. Spent \$7 on chips and juice - over 1000 yen. "This would only be 200 yen at Machioka," Makoto and I were shocked at the price.

Felt Ito's kindness when he comforted DEATHRO during a restroom mishap with "It happens to everyone." Then, off to Chicago.

On the plane, a 52-year-old man next to me wouldn't stop talking. Tired as I was, I had no choice but to engage in English conversation.

Exhausted, we finally arrived in Chicago. Only two more hours to Atlanta. We persevered and finally reached Atlanta.

And then reunited with RYAN at the airport!!! Long time no see, Ryan!

He took us to the van he had mentioned before. It was big enough for two bands and had an incredibly loud engine. "That's a good sound," Ito joked. It felt so American.

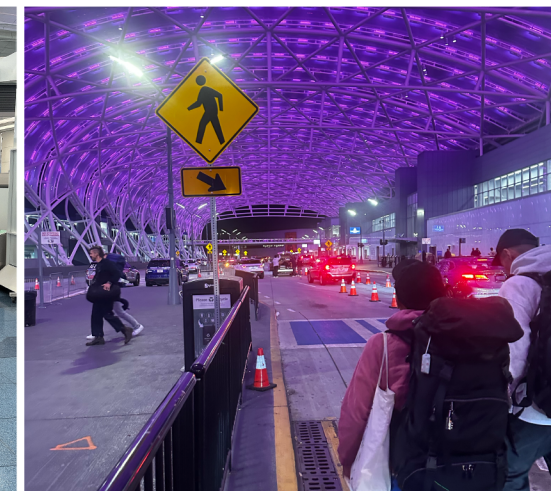
Heading to Austin and Julie's house for the night - JUDY's guitarist and vocalist. Passed a 'US SHOP' on the way. Ryan explained it was a camouflage for selling snacks and candies but actually a drug store.



Last group photo at Denver airport



Just before flight at Haneda airport



Heading to Ryan's van just after arrived at Atlanta airport



Interested in inside of US FOOD MART



Saw a 'Drug-free zone' sign. Isn't that obvious?

Stopped to pick up a friend, ROSE, before heading to Austin and Julie's. Their house was decked out for Halloween, greeting us in clown and Dracula costumes. A laugh.



Mickey from PLAYTIME and HOT EARTH also joined our welcome cum Halloween party.

Lucky to be in America on Halloween. Ate ghost-shaped pizza and carved a huge pumpkin into a jack-o'-lantern.

The party was in full swing, and just when saying goodbye, discovered that Rose was the artist who designed the flyer for the Atlanta show.

"Wait, so you're a TATTOO artist?!" We laughed, wishing we'd known sooner.

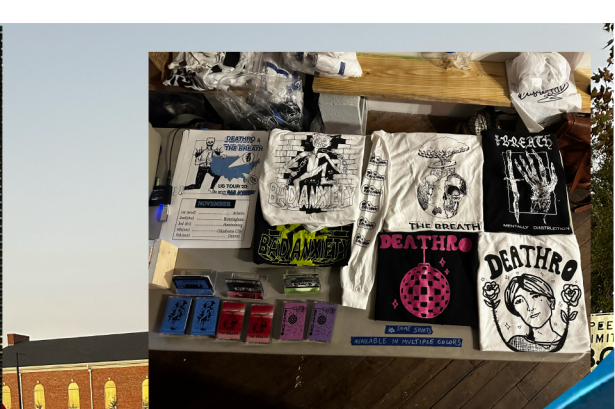
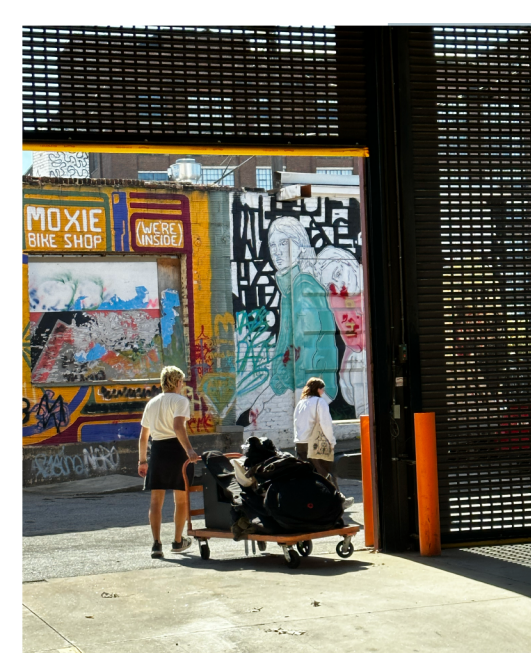
Promised to get tattoos from her if there was time tomorrow.

After gathering at Haneda Airport and a long 24-hour journey with jet lag, it was time to sleep.



Mickey and Julie Happy Halloween





day1 ATLANTA

Waking up in the morning, I found the Hattiesburg crew of BAD ANXIETY had arrived late at night and were sleeping in the same room.

Met David (Guitar) and Billie (Bass) for the first time right after waking up. I remembered Billie saying "(I'm) Badass" during our prior contacts on WhatsApp, and Makoto greeted her with an enthusiastic "Hey, Badass!", uniting in laughter.

It was a long-awaited reunion with Hampton (Vocals of BAD ANXIETY, Bass of JUDY) since the Japan tour in March. He had also completed the merch we requested, and it looked perfect. Amidst the excitement, Hampton brought out an old CRT TV and a switch.

When I asked what it was for, it turned out he planned to set it up at the merch table. As we waited, a video of DEATHRO and THE BREATHE started playing on the TV. Pressing a prepared button, the screen switched to display merch prices!

I know it might not translate well in text, but it was incredibly cool – a DIY electronics project linking

the TV to the switch. Hampton is just too amazing! He introduced himself as "I'm Kouhei(KAGAMI, WWAV)." When Makoto called him a "mad scientist," everyone burst into laughter. And there' s more...

He had also created banners for DEATHRO and THE BREATHE!

I was incredibly grateful – it turned out Hampton and Sarah (Drums of JUDY) made them in his basement. Too kind...

The show hadn't even started, and we were already pumped up with gratitude.

All three bands decided to practice a bit and headed to their usual practice space.

On the way, we stopped at Dunkin' Donuts for breakfast. I learned they don' t call it "31". "Baskin Robbins" is right way to call here. Japanese always call it "31" .

While everyone smoothly received their orders, Ito's was delayed. He also had extra scrutiny during immigration, being questioned about everything from his address to his job.

It turned out Ito would face such delays throughout the tour – this was just the beginning.



Mad scientist Hampton' s work



Breakfast at Baskin Robin



BAD ANXIETY Practice in storage

Arriving at the practice space, it looked like a mere storage unit, large in true American fashion. They rent a space here for storing drums and amps and use it for practice.

I wondered about noise complaints, but this seemed to be a common practice in Atlanta and Hattiesburg. Are there no studios like in Japan?

We started playing, wondering if it was really okay. The staff saw us but just wished us a good day. It was apparently fine to have a hardcore punk studio practice in a regular storage unit.

All three bands finished practicing smoothly. THE BREATH, with Ryan on drums, was in good shape from their live performances in Japan.

DEATHRO kept things lively, playing bass on a trolley and moshing during the other bands' practices.

I was playing bass for DEATHRO on this tour. The bass I borrowed was incredibly easy to play with great sound - couldn't ask for a better environment.

I had listened to BAD ANXIETY's tracks but seeing them perform live for the first time was something else - straight-up US HARDCORE, so cool! I was



Deathro playing bass on trolley

convinced this would be a great tour. After practice, we loaded necessary equipment into the van for today's show in ATLANTA and headed for lunch.

We ate at "Prison Tacos," a taco place near a prison where inmates supposedly escape to eat and then return. The taste was as good as rumored. The venue, house, and practice space were close by, so we went back home to rest.

Makoto, I, and Ryan went to Ryan's house to pick up some equipment. Although I heard it was common to hear gunshots at night due to gang and pusher activity, it felt peaceful during the day. Ryan pointed out a probable drug dealing house - a rundown place. Incredible.

Ryan's house was huge, with high ceilings and a sense of openness.

He said that he only stays there to sleep between tours.

Returning home, Julie had prepared a delicious meal - mac n' cheese, kale, biscuits, and hash brown





7th circle music collective



Much respect Team CONVULSE Records

After the show, headed to a pizza place. The pizzas were predictably huge.

I was hungry, so pizza and Dr. Pepper at midnight hit the spot.

Hampton played Pac-Man and was incredibly good. Ryan and DEATHRO had a dance time.

We were supposed to be at the airport around 7 AM the next day for our flight, so we stayed at Nick's place for the night. Very grateful for that.

His house was filled with Convulse-related posters and flyers, a true Convulse House. Found an old GAG VHS. I wanted to stay and explore everything.

Remembered DEATHRO mentioning during the drive that BAD ANXIETY had a show in Dallas after dropping us at the airport. He seriously considered extending our stay – maybe pretend to lose our passports? His ideas are always incredible.

DEATHRO's behavior in America was the same as in Japan. He fearlessly explained and executed jokes in English, like "I'm sorry, Shave my beard," making Ryan laugh hard. His communication skills are

incredible. I thought about quitting English studies, haha.

Before bed, chilled with Ito and Makoto in front of the house. When we decided to head back inside, we found ourselves locked out – the Denver lockout incident.

DEATHRO didn't notice our LINE messages. Ito almost fell asleep sitting outside. It was chaos around 2 AM. We thought everyone was probably asleep, but when I DM'd Nick, he came right down. Saved us, Sorry and thanks a lot...! Slept safely in a bed that night.

Tried to stay awake as much as possible because I wanted to sleep on the plane the next day. Probably only managed 1-2 hours of sleep.

potatoes. It tasted amazing, but since we just had Prison Tacos, I decided to save it for after the show. Everyone else ate normally, though.

Time to head to EYEDRUM, the venue for our first show in Atlanta. It was bigger than the photos suggested, potentially fitting 400-500 people? if packed.

After loading in the equipment, we spent time talking with the members of the other bands. Rose was handling the reception – grateful for the support.

First up was HOT EARTH. Mickey, whom we met at Julie's Halloween party, was on vocals, Ryan on drums, Julie on bass, and Austin on guitar. Their fast US HARDCORE was incredibly cool, with the audience moshing side to side from the first band.

Next was BALLISTIE AX. Their sound had a HARDCORE feel with a punk edge, reminding me of THE BREATH. Their balance between hardcore and a bit of a Gorilla Biscuits vibe was great. It made sense



At Ryan's place. Nice smile

they've played with bands like TERROR. The audience was fully engaged.

The third band was the secret act PLAYTIME. Having recently toured with SOUL GLO and ZULU, their performance was outstanding, probably the heaviest and grooviest of the tour. The members were great guys, and Ito became quite friendly with them.

Then it was DEATHRO's turn. We had been wondering how KEN-O Beat Rock would be received in America...

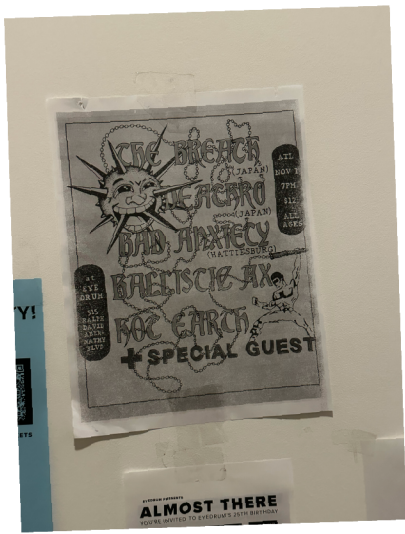
As seen on social media, the reception was fantastic, making the show a huge success! Being a witness to this moment was something to brag about for years. I think my bass playing was pretty good too.

Next was THE BREATH. Mixed with anxiety and anticipation, their show, starting with an English song introduction, was incredibly lively from start to finish. An encore chant started, but we had to explain there were no more songs. However, the crowd asked for the intro to be played again, so we did the same song twice to end the show. Ryan's drumming was perfect, and Makoto's dive from a pillar was just impressive! He was the standout of the tour.

The headliner was BAD ANXIETY, with Ryan on drums for his third set of the night. How does this guy do it? The more the tour progressed, the more I realized Ryan's greatness.

The audience was super excited, and mid-show, they sat in a line doing abdominal-like movements – a peculiar yet impactful scene called "Viking Mosh." This was a one-time occurrence for the tour, though apparently, it happened on their recent European tour too. DEATHRO participating was just too cool.

Hampton's recurring MC about "Idiot using DIY as a stepping stone" made me reflect on many things.



PLAYTIME

old punks, friends of Nick's mom, intervened. Nick said she overall enjoyed the show, which was good to hear.

Chatted with various people after the show. Members of DESTINY BOND were there; would've been great if they played. The venue is operated by the Convulse Records Collective – an ideal DIY setup. They even have members doing video work. Made me wish Japan had similar collectives utilizing

everyone's specialties. However, I'm not great at collaborative work; I tend to want to do things alone. But that might limit my growth. I should learn much more from them.

Spotted flyers of FAIM's Last Show, Cadaver Dog, Iron Lung, etc., on the walls.



HOT EARTH



UKKO'S HAMMER



Today's **BAD ANXIETY**



BALLISTIC AX



THE CLUE



Flyer for FAIM last show



2 legends guitarists

We stopped at a memorial site in Santa Fe, a pathway taken by Native Americans heading to the West Coast. Geographically, it felt like the very heart of America.

There were many flowers in tribute. Truly experienced the vastness of America.

Fell asleep in the car and woke up to find ourselves entering Denver, the roads expanding to about six lanes on each side. Big city vibes.

Soon arrived at the venue "Seventh Circle Music Collective." The area had a somewhat bleak atmosphere. Finally in Denver... The venue was already open and quite crowded.

While setting up our merch table, many people approached and chatted with us.

Met Nick, the vocalist of THE CLUE and a member of Convulse Records.

The first band, UKKO'S HAMMER, started. I heard from Taketo that their vocalist Zach was a cool artist. He was indeed a large presence on stage. Their sound was metallic, my first time seeing a heavy band on this tour. Realized we hadn't really played with HARDCORE bands before; most had a punk texture.

Denver's pit was intense. People were big and rough.



DEATHRO explains concept of his new MV

After their set, Zach, a really nice guy, told me he loves Japanese cars and wants to see them when he visits Japan. Thought about taking him to the car displays in VenusFort in Odaiba.

Finally met Adam from Convulse Records, wearing an SSD shirt, a really nice guy. He welcomed us warmly. Surprised to learn he's in a band called DESTINY BOND.

BAD ANXIETY played second, and by now, I knew all their songs. Hampton wore a Total Fury shirt. their set energized the crowd.

DEATHRO's performance was phenomenal, with intense moshing – amazing to experience, different from shows in Japan.

Then came THE BREATH. Probably the most nervous I've been, but the tension worked in our favor. The audience was warm, but the moshing was hard. After the show, many approached us, including Asian and Chinese people. Adam said he enjoyed our set, which made me happy.

The last band was THE CLUE with Nick on vocals. They were as great as I'd heard. Denver Hardcore Punk! Nick wore a devil costume, but apparently, it was just for that day.

Their show was intense, and Nick's mom was there, really getting into it.

A small scuffle broke out during the show, but some

After the show, we had plans to get tattoos from Rose, but it was too late. Maybe tomorrow if there's time, we thought, and headed back to Julie and Austin's to sleep.

Ryan went back to his own home.

day2 Birmingham

Woke up with a cat curled up on my stomach. Too cute...

I wanted to sleep a bit more, but I had to get up around 8am to get a tattoo from Rose at 9. After getting ready, I had some time, so I made a LINE call to YUKA. Sat in the garden chair and talked for about 30 minutes. She seemed busy with work but otherwise fine, which was a relief.

This was my first time using an eSIM in the US for internet connection, and it worked pretty well overall.

It was a chilly morning in Atlanta. Called from the backyard of Austin and Julie's house, still lingering with the atmosphere of the Halloween party.

Just past 9, Ryan and Rose came to pick me up. I asked if they had rented a tattoo studio, but they said it would be done in a community center – an incredible setting that apparently also hosts DIY Shows. Hard to imagine in Japan.

Stopped at a café on the way, where we met Rose's friend, who was in a hardcore band. I had selected a few tattoo flashes, but one had already been used by someone else (the image from the Atlanta flyer). Turns out, it was this friend who had gotten it. What a coincidence!

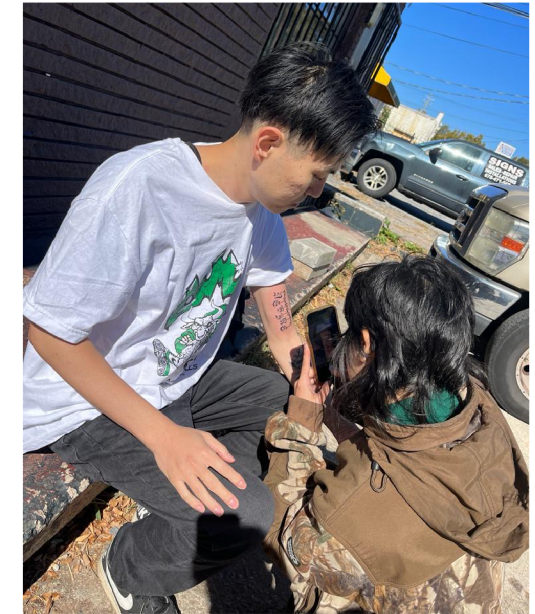
My sandwich took a while, but we took it to go and headed to the center.

Arriving there, it definitely looked like a place where a great DIY show could happen.

Got started with the tattoo after some preparations, but the room was freezing, which was kind of funny.

Ryan brought in a heater, which helped a bit, but it was still cold. Rose joked about canceling her afternoon appointments because of the cold.

The area is known as COP CITY, home to a police training center built by clearing forests despite community opposition. "STOP COP CITY" protests are still ongoing, and Rose mentioned she had been arrested once. I always find people who engage in protest activities truly amazing.



Shooting just after TATOOing

The tattoo took 2-3 hours and was surprisingly painless on my upper arm. I was thrilled with how it turned out.

Said goodbye to Rose, who stayed behind, and returned home with Ryan. DEATHRO then told me about an incredible thing happening in the backyard – they were shooting a music video on the skate ramp. Austin's skateboarding skills were impressive, almost professional level I think.

I thanked Ryan for accommodating my personal wish to get a tattoo, jokingly saying, "Thank you for making my individual desire come true." DEATHRO

and Ryan laughed, making it an inside joke about "Individual Desire."

Ito, Makoto, and the original members of THE BREATH, who joined us on this US Tour, are all embodiments of individual desire too.

It was then time to head to Birmingham for today's show. Said goodbye to Austin and Julie, leaving Julie a message since she was at work. We were grateful for their hospitality.

Set off for the next city with a mix of emotions, discussing the previous night's Atlanta show on the way.

Finally stopped at Buc-ee's – a place Hampton had



Really appreciate Austin & Julie

mentioned in our pre-tour messages, saying he was excited to take us there. It's a gas station with clothes, food, and the epitome of America. Inside, endless Buc-ee's merchandise – T-shirts, plush toys, hats, socks, keychains, etc.

Hampton pointed out a shot glass with "DIXIE" printed on it, explaining it was an old term for the American South during slavery and questioned its appropriateness in modern times. Throughout the tour, Hampton provided insightful political and international background information, which was enlightening.



Makoto enjoy Buc-ee's so much

Ended up buying just a chicken sandwich at Buc-ee's due to hunger, but it didn't quite suit my taste. sorry but no problem.

Left Buc-ee's and arrived in Birmingham after 1-2 hours. Visited SEASICK records where Eli from B.O.R.N., today's organizer worked. Very good record store.

And I found the prices were much higher compared to DISK UNION – sometimes double. I realized why foreigners in Japan tend to buy so many records.

Said goodbye to Eli and ANOMALY's member (So sorry I forget his name....), then went to the venue. It was still closed due to a previous event, so we killed time at a nearby park and a convenience store-like place. The area had lots of live country music restaurants/bars.

Today's venue was "Firehouse" a traditional DIY venue. People in Atlanta had told us, "You're playing in Birmingham at Firehouse tomorrow? That's a great place!" and "Without Firehouse, there would be no current Birmingham scene. It's an important venue." The atmosphere and show were fantastic.

Day5 Denver

Woke up early around 6:30 AM. Chilled in the yard with Makoto and Ito.

It was a bit chilly outside. We took a walk and found a church. The morning sun was beautiful.

Back at Alex's place, we chilled with a cute cat.

Soon everyone was awake, and it was time to leave, meaning farewell to Alex and the others.

Decided to take a group photo in front of the house.



ceremonial photograph after destroy flower bed

...During the photo shoot, DEATHRO accidentally destroyed a flower bed! The photo captured the aftermath, including the broken bricks. According to DEATHRO, Alex said they'd probably spend the afternoon fixing it. I hope it got repaired... 😂

Despite the mishap, we set off for Denver.

Denver, for me, is synonymous with Convulse Records. The fact that they organized the show made me really excited. Thanks so much, Ryan... The previous four shows were incredible. Felt determined to do well in the last one too.

In Oklahoma City, we saw a restaurant sign saying "American Owned." Hampton explained it meant "It's safe here because an American owns it (not people from other ethnicities)," a form of racism. It's good to learn these things, though it's sad that such

signs exist.

The journey continued through vast landscapes. Ryan drove, and Makoto sat in the passenger seat, seeming to make a great team, both looking quite happy. Of course, they must have been tired too.



Hang out at true central America geography



PLUSIE



Inside the Seasick Records

The first band was B.O.R.N., with Eli on drums. Their pure noise D-beat hardcore was really cool. They played a TOTALITÄR cover (probably) and reminded me of UNARM in Japan.

The second band was supposed to be Texas grindcore band DEVALUED, but they canceled last minute, and Anomaly performed instead. Their sound was fast with catchy parts, fitting the current US PUNK trend.

THE BREATH had an incredible set following Atlanta, with an amazing audience response. It was the ideal DIY Hardcore Punk Show.

After the show, a guy who had lived in Osaka thanked us in Japanese, saying, "Thanks for coming. It's rare to have bands from Japan."

Next was DEATHRO. Again, an incredible response. In the US, moshing is normal. Despite guitar and bass equipment issues, DEATHRO' s acapella created a good flow, leading to a fantastic overall performance.

The last was BAD ANXIETY. By now, I was familiar with almost all their songs from practice and previous sets. Their catchy songs are pure US Hardcore.

Afterwards, chatted with Eli, members of other bands, Billie's roommate Nora, and then left the venue.

We had a show the next day in Hattiesburg, 4 hours away, where Hampton and Sarah lived.

Ate food from LOVES, a convenience store-like place we'd frequently visit during the tour, around 1:30



B.O.R.N.



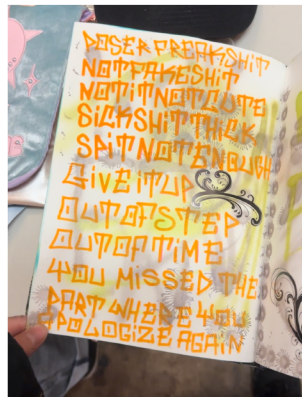
ANOMALY



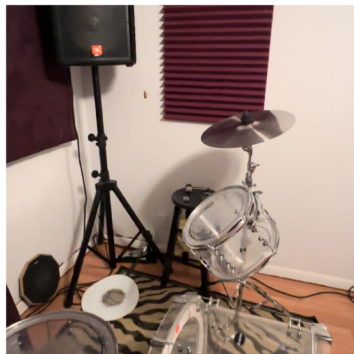
Todya' s BAD ANXIETY



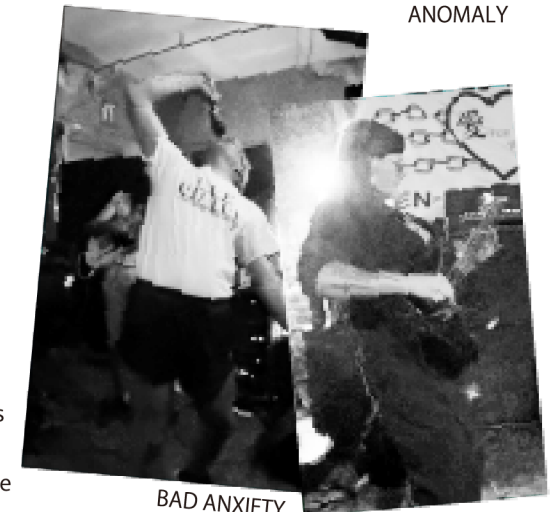
Just venue for festival



GABY' s art book



ALEX' s place. so nice



BAD ANXIETY



We stopped by LOVES

am. However, the burrito I bought. Asked BAD ANXIETY if there was no salad, and they joked, "There's no concept of health here."

Eating brightly colored snacks and gummies at night seemed to be the standard in the southern tour.

Arrived at Hampton and Sarah's in Hattiesburg around 4-5 am. Reunited with Sarah, which was so nice.

Seeing this as JUDY's local spot was moving. Ryan had shown me a video of a house show in their basement, where KNOCKED LOOSE had played before becoming famous, and probably BIB too. Explored Hampton's house despite being tired from the live shows and travel. He showed me an arcade cabinet he built himself, containing hundreds of games, from famous Japanese titles like Street Fighter II, Mega Man, and X-Men, to unknown (but famous in America) titles. Truly a mad scientist's work.



take care of the gears in Hattiesburg

Hampton's collection of Dragon Ball GT bootleg VHS, records, and tapes seemed endless. I wished I could stay and play for a few days. Finally went to sleep, but the real thanks go to Ryan for driving us.

Day3 Hattiesburg

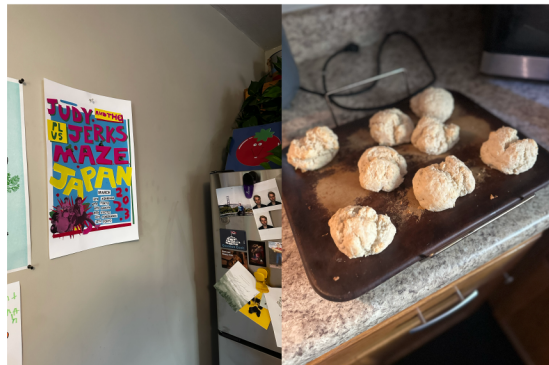
Woke up just before noon to find Sarah had baked some muffins or biscuits. They were incredibly delicious. Enjoyed them with coffee – so grateful.

Spotted a JUDY Japan tour poster in the kitchen. Seeing a poster from far-off Japan becoming a part of someone's life here made me feel emotional. It must have been a memorable tour for everyone. I wasn't even an organizer, but it made me feel thankful to M.A.Z.E. once again.

We explored Hampton's huge backyard. Recently, a couple of black kittens had taken up residence there, playfully running around. There was also a little cat house set up for them.

In the house, there were 2-3 cats and dogs each. Hampton works at a dog and cat shelter. Every home we visited on this tour had dogs and cats – such a nice life.

The weather was perfect, making backyard chilling even more enjoyable. I could have stayed there forever, but around noon, we headed out for pizza



JUDY Japan tour poster on kitchen

and bags for their merch table.

PLUSIE's merch was her design too. Ito and I talked we already wanna merch, but decided to watch their performance before buying anything.

The venue was remarkably spacious – maybe it could fit 700-800 people? When I first entered, I thought it was a festival venue. Turns out it used to host a Hardcore Punk fest called "Everything is not OK fest," featuring bands like Q and BETA BOYS. JUDY AND THE JERKS might have played there too. Makoto said, "Let's make this a memorable show that people will talk about in the future" firing us all up.

First up was PLUSIE. They had a modern texture with a raw punk edge, somewhat similar to THE BREATH. Gaby's presence, including her voice and outfit, was striking. They would fit right in at a big festival. I got their merch, though they don't have a record out yet. Looking forward to their future releases.

Then came Bad Anxiety, followed by Deathro, and lastly THE BREATH. It was our fourth show of the tour, and the set was well-polished. The audience was warm and welcoming, with lots of moshing. I heard later that we might be the first Japanese Hardcore Punk band (and Beat Rock) to play in Oklahoma. Everyone kept thanking us for coming. But honestly, we should be the ones thanking them.

Apparently, there used to be a suitable DIY space, but it had closed down. There are Hardcore bands, but not many Hardcore "Punk" bands. PLUSIE started partly to support touring bands – truly grateful and inspiring.

Billie's artwork was noteworthy. After the show, we went to What A Burger with PLUSIE. Not feeling like eating something too greasy, I ordered a salad while everyone else went for burgers, which looked amazing.

Said goodbye to everyone from PLUSIE except Alex, as we were staying at his house. Made plans to exchange records when they're out.

Arriving at Alex's house, it was incredibly stylish. Spotted a tape by the band Tamagochi, which piqued my interest. There was even a studio in his house. Literally, a studio for practice and recording. Amazing. Despite being on a US tour, the Japanese team took showers every day, deciding the order by rock-paper-scissors. Reminded me of the story where MILK didn't bathe during a tour, despite having the opportunity.

The next day was the last of the tour. Too soon, too fast. Heading to Denver next, another drive over 10 hours. After chilling in the yard with Ito and Makoto, we went to sleep.



Salad of What A Burger



Badass Billie's work



Statue of Vernon Dahmer

Day4 Oklahoma City

So, we got up incredibly early and must have left around 5 or 6 in the morning.

The van journeyed through vast expanses of land. Along the way, we passed regions with sprawling cotton fields, where, during the era of slavery, only white people were masters. Now, it seems there are bosses who aren't white. Hampton, our professor, shared this piece of history.

Experiencing the vast American landscape was a first for me.

There were hardly any buildings. Every time we stopped at roadside stores, the clerks would strike up conversations, which was funny. Ryan explained that it's rare for them to have visitors, and our group, being a mix of white and Asian people, was even more unusual. Makes sense.

But Ryan's driving was impressive. Members of BA could drive too, so they could have taken turns, but Ryan drove the entire time. Truly an iron man.

I later asked Makoto, who was in the passenger seat, and he said it seemed tough... understandable with our schedule. Really, thank you, Ryan.

We even crossed the famous Mississippi River. Traversing the state of Arkansas, after over 10 hours, we finally arrived in Oklahoma City! It was already 5 PM, and it was getting dark.



Endless cotton firm



In the van. It's shame if it has Hampton, it was all of us

We parked behind the venue, and today's organizer, Alex, from the band PLUSIE, welcomed us. Greeted the rest of PLUSIE. I had a little interaction with their vocalist Gaby on Instagram, and she was just as wonderful as I had imagined. She's also an artist and had designed shirts, hats,

at a place called "FAT BOY'S PIZZA" – the name and look of the place screamed America!

The pizza was huge, with slices as big as your face. We ordered two pizzas, one tomato-based and one cheese-based. Managed to eat two slices, while DEATHRO ate three. The pizza, coupled with Dr. Pepper, was quintessentially American.

Nearby, at a university, I learned that Billie is a student.

Hampton then showed us around Hattiesburg. The streets were almost empty, probably because it was a weekday and everyone drives here.

We stumbled upon a free street museum with miniatures and trick art. Makoto suggested taking a "Love for You" style photo with DEATHRO and a Beatles-style photo with THE BREATH.

Then Hampton explained two controversial statues outside a government building. One was of civil rights leader Vernon Dahmer, known for his quote, "If you don't vote, you don't count." The other was a statue of the first leader of the Ku Klux Klan. These two statues stood next to each other, representing completely opposite ideologies.

During the BLACK LIVES MATTER movement, similar statues were destroyed in many places. In Hattiesburg, the police guarded the statues, which are still standing today.

We also saw from outside the community space where Hampton and Sarah had their wedding. Our town exploration concluded there.

Next, we headed to a T-shirt printing shop. Despite having only done two shows, almost all our merch had sold out – such a pleasant surprise.

Hampton had contacted Andie, Billie's partner who's involved in various bands, to get more merch printed. Finally met Andie after coordinating the merch before the tour!

The printing setup was way more professional than I expected.

Andie, along with David and Billie, helped us out. Their efficiency made me wonder if they had worked in printing before.



This is American pizza restaurant



At free street museum

Then, it was time to head to the venue.

I had heard Hattiesburg was rural, so I was expecting a chaotic venue. But it turned out to be a very nice and stylish bar – probably the nicest place on the tour.

SKIN MAN was the first band. The drummer wore a Convulse Records shirt, and their sound had a modern vibe but also a BLACK FLAG-like groove. Later found out they were released by 11PM – a shame I couldn't get their merch.

BAD ANXIETY was next. Hampton warmly introduced THE BREATH and DEATHRO from Japan. So grateful for his support. David's slam dancing and Billie's jumps were highlights.

Hampton crowd-surfed during a song that seemed to diss people moving to big cities – reminded me of Blue Herb in a way.

Then came THE BREATH. Hattiesburg's student population brought a fresh, powerful energy to the mosh pit. It was nice to see moshing even in the faster parts – something rare in Japan.

DEATHRO followed with an intense performance, full of moshing and cheers, especially during the encore. It might have been the peak of the tour. DEATHRO and Makoto liked Hattiesburg so much they joked about wanting to live there.

The final band was DEFLUO CERVUS.

After the show, we sold merch, chatted with the audience and other bands. Ryan introduced us to a member of D.SABLU, and their music was cool. Ito and Makoto managed to get SKIN MAN's merch, which I envied.

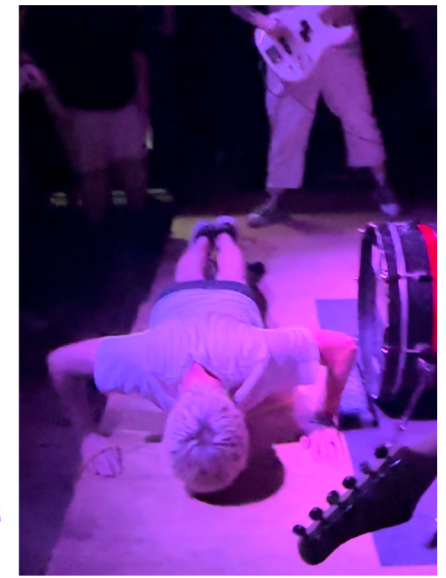
Then we hit COOK OUT for burgers around midnight. Wasn't really in the mood for greasy food, so Ryan and Hampton suggested slaw – which turned out to be coleslaw. It was okay, a bit bland. Back at Hampton and Sarah's place, we went to bed early because we had a 10-hour drive ahead of us, starting at 5:00 am. The true American tour experience!



Flyer on the wall of Hattiesburg's restaurant



SKINMAN



Push up during set



Hattiesburg city side



DEFLUO CERVUS



Brother shot after the show



At garden of Sarah & Hampton's place



Very nice place



Thank you for driving

Thank you so much Andie