

Radio Silence No More

Birgit Ulher, trumpet, radio, mutes, speaker



Birgit Ulher uses extended speakers, fed with radio noise in her trumpet mutes. The trumpet functions as an acoustic chamber and modulates the radio noise, thus the trumpet is transmitter and receiver at the same time. She also uses metal sheets as 'vibrating systems'. By varying the pressure on the metal sheets, which are held against the trumpet bell, she creates multiphonics and splitting sounds.

In addition to trumpet and mutes Ulher's instruments on the solo album 'Radio Silence No More' are radio and particular speakers. Also in this area she has stretched the limit for both the speaker's capacity and its functionality. What remains is an element that maybe more accurately could be compared to percussion. Actually, Ulher's playing with radio noise sometimes sounds completely electronic, although the music is essentially acoustic.....

The sounds are rather territorial, perceived as a rough surface. I think that Ulher's background as a visual artist is reflected in this spatial thinking. Sounds begin and end with long pauses of silence. The tendency is sculptural or three-dimensional, but the sounds also tend to dislocate the listener, pushing the listener in different directions towards different borders. It is an album that one must listen to in a room and not in an iPod. Sometimes the speaker and the trumpet are so close that it suddenly feels that you are inside the radio, and then, suddenly, perceived from a distance.'..... There is something in Ulher's art that makes her a highly interesting musician. Sometimes I imagine her trumpet as some sort of microscope, with a set of lenses that unexpectedly turns a grainy image into brocade.

Johan Redin www.soundofmusic.nu



Performance 'Radio Silence No More', Scaniaparken, Malmö, Sweden

The CD 'Radio Silence No More' has been released 2009 on the Swedish label Olofbrigt.

www.birgit-ulher.de