

Bernhard Gál

same difference

Audio CD

Gromoga Records

2010

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Audio CD. Gromoga Records, 2010

gro 11001

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same difference, Bernhard Gal's eighth full length audio publication, features for the first time a selection of compositions for traditional Chinese instruments, in conjunction with other thematically related works. The CD was conceived as a continuous, homogenous sound work: five transitions - titled 'a thousand', 'times', 'and again', 'and never', 'the same' - connect the individual pieces.

East Asian perspectives, their musical traditions and ways of thinking, have been of great influence in Gal's artistic oeuvre, be it in his long-time collaboration with the Japanese architect / installation artist Yumi Kori, in duo projects with the Taiwanese composer Tung Chao-Ming, or in composition for Chinese instruments and various electroacoustic works. Frequently, the challenges and limitations of any intercultural endeavour are addressed or ironically reflected: Western avantgarde concepts merge with the sound colours of traditional Chinese instruments (*Of Sound and Time*), the potential of a 'hybrid' quartet constellation is tested (*vür vier*), sounds of the Chinese zither *guzheng* and the Chinese mouth organ *sheng* are interwoven with their electroacoustic derivatives within a space-oriented concert installation (*uh-jeh-gal*), and a 'musical' sauna session is combined with the airy sounds of the Chinese bamboo whistle *koudi* (*in fusion*). In *UTOO*, the delicate instrumental overlay of a Berlin subway ride might find its equivalent in the abstractions of contemporary Chinese bamboo painting. The 'eternal same' is explored in six (nearly) equally tuned guitar strings (*e-musik*), the 'eternal other' is meditated upon in circular movements of singing wine glasses (*xuan zhuan*).

Track List

01	a thousand	01'23
02	xuán zhu n	15'00
03	uh-jeh-gal	20'08
04	times	00'43
05	e-musik	06'02
06	and again	00'50
07	vür fier	04'17
08	and never	00'51
09	Of Sound and Time	09'50
10	the same	01'54
11	UTOO	10'31
12	in fusion	06'55
	Total duration:	78'24

Further information and audio excerpts: http://www.bernhardgal.com/samedifference_cd.html

Austrian artist, composer and musicologist Bernhard Gál has become internationally known as one of the most prolific sound artists of his generation. As of now, Gál has created around 50 sound installations and intermedia art projects, combining sound, light, objects, spatial concepts and video projections into intense and often site-specific interdisciplinary art works. He also composes music for acoustic instruments and electro-acoustic music. As a (laptop) musician he has been performing extensively on four continents. He runs the record label Gromoga Records and is the director of the Austrian art organization 'sp ce'. Between 2006 and 2007 he taught sound art at the University of Arts in Berlin. For his music and art projects, Gál has received numerous awards; his music has been made available on 30 audio publications.

<http://www.bernhardgal.com>