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Vital Weekly 609

Frans de Waard presents the experimental releases of the week.

LATITUDE/LONGITUDE - SOLAR FILTERS/MOTHER EVENING (7" by Free103point9)

RADIO RUIDO - FALSE ROSETTA (double 7" by Free103point9)

Audio Dispatch is a series of releases by the ever so active Free103point9, a radio station, concert space and who knows what else - a label also! In this series they release work by people who played there, or who were asked to record something specially for them. Latitude/Longitude is a duo of Micheal Garofalo and Patrick McCarthy, which are announced as an 'electro-acoustic duo', since they use 'test oscillators, homemade cassette tape and field recordings, radio transmissions, toy electronics as well as traditional instruments as guitar, banjo, mbira and vocals'. I may have expected something else than this, but these two pieces are gorgeous alternative pop songs. The 'day-side' has 'Solar Filters', a piece for drum loop, banjo, melodica and voice. There is something country & western like about it, or a workman like song, of simple beauty. 'Mother Evening', on the other side, is a more mellow song, based around a simple one-stomp loop and sorrowful voice in a bed of pedalsteel and perhaps some electronics. Both pieces cry for more. A sort of alternative pop 7" that I cherish since the early 80s. One long tradition here.

Radio Ruido is a project by Tom Mulligan and he deals with number stations. In case you forgot about those since the excellent 'Conet Project', number stations are shortwave radio signals that consist of number reading, words, tunes, morse code and are perhaps perhaps used by secret agents all over the world. Dial on your radio to the far end and look for it yourself. It can provide some excellent source material to create music.

Mulligan creates four pieces out of what he found on the waves. It's of course pretty experimental and dark this music, but what else can you expect? It tends towards the noise side of things, but it never goes over the top. Perhaps that is a bit of a problem, I thought. It stays all a bit too much on the safe side of things. No menace, no treat, no harm. Nice, but perhaps a bit too normal. (FdW)

Address: <http://www.free103point9.org>

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