

Mp3 Smash And Teeny - Gathering



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Electro-acoustic 11 MP3 Songs ELECTRONIC: Experimental Details: Nilan Perera - altered electric guitar and effects Sarah Peebles - laptop de-tuned sh (mouth-organ) with guest artists John Butcher - soprano and tenor saxophones and Chung Gong - calligraphy performance (video) CD I Smash and Teeny CD II Smash and Teeny with John Butcher, Kaladar Kodex video Gathering brings together the most exceptional music and video art of Toronto duo Smash and Teeny, created live in performance, studio and site-specific outdoor locations in Canada, the U.S. and England between 2001-2003. In this double-CD debut of Smash and Teeny, featuring special guest John Butcher, prepared electric guitar, manipulated natural and urban sounds, de-tuned sh and soprano and tenor saxophones conspire and collide, weaving impossibly beautiful improvised sonic landscapes. A stunning blend of saxophone science meets a universe of crafted sampled environments and ancient reed cries, all blended with guitar that has been lovingly altered to resemble massed percussion and string ensembles. Kaladar Kodex (video) features the sonic inspired calligraphy of Chung Gong Ha set to an improvised musical score by the Toronto-based mixed media trio, Cinnamon Sphere (Peebles, Perera and Gong). Juxtaposing real-time with the non-linear, "Kaladar Kodex" provides a layered psychological perspective of the act of spontaneous creation: two musicians and a calligrapher come together in a rural field where they explore their musical, artistic, physical and spiritual connection to the elements and to the historical farm surrounding them. Peebles reconstructs their performance and the myriad of views recorded by herself and Perera, with an eye towards the textures of plants, creatures and ink, musical gesture, and non-linear, experimental form. This is a tableau of improvisation in the moment an autumn afternoon as the storm approaches beyond the barn. What the critics are saying; Smash and Teeny are Nilan Perera and Sarah Peebles, a duo of Toronto-based sound artists who achieve their impressive and intriguing

results through spontaneous performances, Perera on his prepared electric guitar, which he runs through various effects, and Peebles through her laptop and de-tuned sho, or Japanese mouth organ. Gathering is a mesmerising double-disc retrospective that encompasses various performances and studio recordings from throughout the past six years they've worked together. Like a lot of time-based sound art, Smash and Teeny place heavy emphasis on letting their spatial arrangements slowly and naturally unfold and intertwine, but there's a throbbing inner tension within the pieces presented here that holds the listener's interest. Ox Tendon Enigma is especially intense with its layers of tightly wound guitar loops and the opening pair of Looking Glass and Stridulation Nation recall the busily close-knit buzzing of the bees portrayed on this collection's cover. The real standout here, though, is the 26-minute Hummingbird Midnight, which features the UK's renowned experimental saxophonist John Butcher and pushes the performers' tense interplay from well beyond the brink of comfort into strangely soothing corridors where double-locked doors unexpectedly open and lure the listener over foreboding thresholds. -- Kevin Hainey, Exclaim

The music is startling, always absorbing. The mixing of environmental and electronic sound is really potent. -- Brent Clough, ABC Radio National

UK sax explorer John Butcher seems to be everywhere, playing with a wide variety of fine improvisers from different scenes, from Derek Bailey to Chris Burn to Georg Grawe to Phil Durrant to Phil Minton, as well as his great solo sax performances. We know of electronics composer and musician Sarah Peebles from the few releases she has ('Suspended in Amber' 'Insect Groove'), but can't that I'm familiar with guitarist Nilan Perera before this. Nilan and Sarah set the scene with intricate, eerie and subtle textures, insect-like electronics and suspenseful electric guitar drones shimmer and slowly mutate. It sounds as if Sarah has sampled some metallic percussion as well as other more mysterious sounds. Sarah's mesmerizing/unnerving insect sounds have a way of getting under one's skin, perhaps she should be doing soundtrack work for some science fiction films. On CD-II, John Butcher's chattering sax fits perfectly weaving notes around the duo's darkly enchanting pulsations. The DVD [ed. enhanced CD] captures the duo playing live outside with Nilan bowing his guitar-on-lap as Sarah also creates her own electronic soundscapes on her computer. Chung Gong works on a few large canvases doing calligraphy, painting with a large brush made from (human?) hair. It is odd to see these folks creating these somber, yet strange, alien sonic sounds outdoors, barefoot with insects and frogs around them, yet it works quite well. The video portion is about 10 minutes, just long enough to entice us with these unique images. The trio seems to stretch out time as the sounds often drift

through space and the pace feels like it has been slowed down. The final piece has some fine noisy guitar, Evan Parker-like tenor sax waves and eerie electronics surrounding. A perfect place to bring our journey to an appropriate close. -- BLG (Downtown Music Gallery newsletter, NYC) Sarah Peebles and Nilan Perera (Smash and Teeny) Smash and Teeny expand the frontiers of improvisation and sound art through their innovative use of electroacoustics, prepared electric guitar, everyday widgets, and the sublime, illusive tones of the sh. Among "Canada's more original musical voices" (Eye Weekly), they create a musical expression rich in timbre, lyricism and subtlety. In his unusual approach to the guitar, Nilan Perera utilizes preparations of assorted paraphernalia such as swizzle sticks, paper clips, metal brushes and the like, as well as feedback and a variety of electronic effects. His explorations of sound infuse timbre, melodic gesture and cyclic contour with reminiscences of the blues, Hendrix, Partch, Sri Lankan folk and other musics, drawing on his activities as avant-jazz guitarist, sound explorer and composer. Sarah Peebles integrates sounds she has gathered from natural habitats and cityscapes in North America and Japan into her improvisations. She gathers and alters her own sounds on the fly, which run the gamut from dust pans, modulated railway sounds and snow, to hummingbirds, ignited vapors and cicadas. She also draws upon the sustained tones of the sh, the Japanese mouth-organ noted for its unique timbre and tendency to 'throw' sound in unexpected ways. Perera and Peebles have worked together as the duo Smash and Teeny since 1991 and with the Toronto-based trio "Cinnamon Sphere" (with Chung Gong Ha, calligrapher) since 1995, performing and recording in Europe, Canada, the U.S. and Japan, and collaborating with such exceptional artists as David Toop, Jin Hi Kim, Evan Parker, John Butcher, K Ishikawa, Darren Copeland, Sumihisa Arima, and Tomomi Adachi. London-based saxophonist John Butcher is a leading figure in free improvisation and internationally renowned as a master of multiphonics and as a manipulator of acoustic effects. Using the tenor saxophone as an extension of his own voice, Butcher has experimented with such techniques as growling and flutter tonguing to create effects that are reminiscent of speech, song, crying, whispers and laughter.

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