

Softland «War Againstt Error»

Spezialmaterial

Softland is a solo project with a determined **do-it-yourself mentality**.

«War Againstt Error», Zürich-based Christof Steinmann's second album after his debut «One Is A Very Small Crowd» (2003), consists of six longer experimental popsongs written between 1997 and 2005.

The stylistic bandwidth spans from melancholy **lo-fi popsong** and datapop-chanson-parody to bewildering **soundscapes** that unexpectedly morph into intricately arranged **electronica-tracks** in full cinemascope format.

All tracks share a certain tendency towards **eclecticism**, apparent in opulently **playful** song structures and an almost outrageous combination of stylistic influences such as minimal music, electroacoustic or imaginary folk music.

The cd-version adds several more tracks and broadens the spectrum of the six core tracks by interlacing them with field recordings and weaving the whole into a soundtrack-montage, considerably exceeding the length of a standard pop album.

Using field recordings as a basis, the tracks **combine acoustic instruments** (double bass, harmonium, recorder, voice) with **synthetic sounds** derived from analogue sources and **digital processing**.

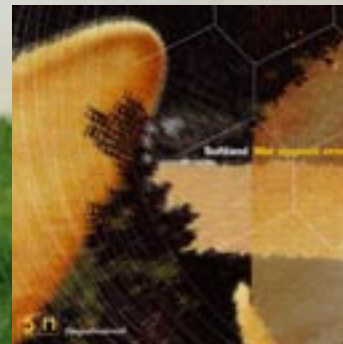
In the exploration of unusual timbres, sounds and harmonies, softland uses his limited instrumental technique as consciously as chance algorithms, software abuse and an alchemistic **trial-and-error strategy** within compositional structures. By layering, filtering, cutting and pasting, what seemed a lack of precision grows into a dense structure of intricate rhythms and complex harmonies.

The end result retains **pop and club culture** as core reference points while at times **stretching the boundaries** of these genres beyond recognition:

File under Eklektronica.



LP Spezialmaterial SM021LP006



CD Spezialmaterial SM021CD012

Softland is

Christof Steinmann

1972 born in Luzern (CH)
Studies Audiovisual Arts in Amsterdam
Installations (Sound/Image)
Music for Video, Contemporary Dance
Part of the Collective Spezialmaterial
Lives and works in Zürich.

Releases

«One Is A Very Small Crowd» (2003)
Spezialmaterial SM011CD007
«War Againstt Error» (2005)
Spezialmaterial SM021 CD012/LP006

Selection of Live-Sets

Ausland Berlin
Astra-Stube Hamburg
Pathos München
Fribourg FriSon
Dachkantine Zürich
Datanom-Lab København
Consortium Amsterdam
Les Siestes électroniques Toulouse
Stadtsommer Zürich
Patagonica Festival Chile
Spezialmaterial-Tour Buenos Aires

Lyrics

«Would you try and tell me what it's
like to be you, from inside, I mean, and
all that...
Frightened at the slightest glance of
what appears to be
some kind of closeness
or something real for once. [...]»

Press Quotes

«Softland creates an uneasy, dreamy
landscape, by juxtaposing long chains
of melody with dissonant, random
bursts of percussion and pulsing, at
times ominous, pads.»
Elizabeth Wells for absorb.org

«Musik von einer kraftstrotzenden Fülle
und atmosphärischen Weite» *NLZ*

Release Info

LP/CD Softland «War Againstt Error»

Label Spezialmaterial
Genre Eklektronica

Distribution
Baked Goods (www.baked-goods.com)

Release-Date 5th of September 2005

<http://spezialmaterial.ch/artists/softland>
<http://media.spezialmaterial.ch/movies/softland/Platte.mov>