

The Wire 485 July 2024

Adventures in Sound and Music

# The Wire

KMRU  
Listening skills

GORDAN  
Village voices

KARL BARTOS'S  
Jukebox

BODIES OF SOUND  
Bianca Scout +  
NWAKKE +  
Malik Nashad Sharpe

## TOMEKA REID

EXPLORATIONS  
OFF THE GRID

Tongue In The Mind  
Nick Dunston  
Sisso & Maiko  
Henry Birdsey  
Nika Son  
Chris Corsano  
Sun Ra  
Elton Dean  
Kim Gordon  
Charles Curtis  
Jeff Mills  
Eno on film

### Limpe Fuchs

#### *Amor*

Play Loud! DL/LP

The archive of Limpe Fuchs's work tracks a roaming free spirit. Explorations on self-designed stone and metal instruments sit alongside droning synthesizer rituals, unbounded songs curve into rolling percussion and free improvisation. While her music constantly evolves, it's always recognisable.

Fuchs's new album *Amor* perpetuates this elusiveness despite containing some of her most readily classifiable music. A piano and voice led collection, these are love songs, as the title suggests, about everything from cars to her drums alongside more conventional moping and hoping.

A stream of consciousness flow in her voice and piano playing shares ground with Maggie Nicols and Meredith Monk. There's also a distinct theatrical tint to *Amor*'s songs, like vaudeville played in rubato time. Sometimes, such as on opener "Die Liebe", Fuchs meanders a little, her whimsical, ruminating fragments not quite sparking. But the moments when she innervates this itinerant mode are stunning. The poignant mood swings of "Something" map a teeter between hopeful longing and heartbreak. On "Haiku" a gust of scraped piano strings drops a hurricane in the song's already turbulent eddies and currents. The jagged clusters and flowing arpeggios of "Trommeln" mimic a fluctuating heartbeat. The title track beautifully swoons and soars. Over melodic yet mutating piano lines, multilingual lyrics hymn order in nature, perhaps offering us a glimpse into the affections and fascinations informing Fuch's work.

Fuchs's recent records *Pianoon* and *Piano In The Rain* have marked her returning interest in the piano, her first instrument, while glimmers of more bound, storytelling songs have cropped up throughout her career. But *Amor* is her most sustained embrace of lyrics and storytelling. The album includes two bonus tracks documenting live performances. Euphonious, textural, abstract, they situate *Amor* as the surprising left turn it is. A testament to the ongoingness of Fuchs's practice, an openended commitment to playful invention that's still springing surprises.

Daryl Worthington

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Tomeka Reid / KMRU / Gordon / Karl Bartos / Bodies of Sound

