

VITAL (Netherlands):

Mark van Hoen and Mike Harding are back. And now on the silver disc. Mappa Mundi follows two LP releases on Pomperipossa. The duo – once again – takes the listener on a journey; rustling, bustling and hurtling through a world of modular synth, field recordings and shortwave radio fragments. Mappa Mundi excavates lines and traces, marks made upon the world – the drawn map of aural energies and destinations, seas and clouds of myriads of sounds from exploration in sheer wonder. This sonic act is as much descriptive as it is affirmative, in: by the very fact of its recording, this mapping of the aural landscape comes into being in the first (but most definitely not the last) place.

Van Hoen and Harding therewith inform by pointing out details and idiosyncrasies and, at the same time, codify and enhance, deepen and structure the experience of soundscaping as map making. One could follow their cues and traces, lines and trajectories to plot travels through sound. That is to say: drøne opens the aural appreciation of the world surrounding us all towards a vista upon noise beyond chaos, beyond dichotomies, beyond simplicities by celebrating inherent chaos, embracing wholeheartedly experimental trial and error and juxtaposing of sign, signifier and signified and changing respective relations.

Although we're presented with 'a map', there is no static 'as is'. The temporal status of the drawn line as a status for the time being is signed off on by the per se time based nature of music as art. The perception of time as a major factor in the mental and physical appreciation of aural environments is

underlined and emboldened by drøne, time and time again,
layer upon layer, fragment following fragment. Mappa Mundi
affirms as much of aural knowledge as it points to what's not
known; the here-be-monsters part – the convergence and
divergence therewith of and between the known and the
uncertain, while the clock ticks on and on or does it? [SSK]