

gert-jan prins
electronics, am / fm modulations
improviser

His unique electronic system makes use of radio- and transmitter technology, and creates strong noises with great physical energy

During the last four years Gert-Jan Prins, living in Amsterdam, established himself as one of the central electronic performers in improvised music.

Besides his solo-project, current collaborations include E-RAX(with Thomas Lehn and Peter van Bergen) , The Flirts with Cor Fuhler, MIMEO, and the Vacuum Boys, he played with Lee Ranaldo, Pita, Fennesz, Anne la Berge, Domenico Sciajno and Misha Mengelberg. Performances on international festivals & clubs worldwide.

Interview in The Wire Magazine on Gert-Jan Prins, januari 2003: "These boxes make sound as soon as you switch them on," says Dutch electronic improviser, Gert-Jan Prins of his hotwired music equipment. A performance is about getting them to go in the direction you want, in the group process, how you feel and what sounds good in the room with the PA.

"For Prins, who currently lives in Amsterdam, these boxes are essentially homemade radios and transmitters that feed back on themselves. They spit, fizz, judder, let off steam, ripple and pulse with analogue and sometimes earsplitting precision.

It was the magic of radio that inspired Prins to start "seriously soldering" back in 1976, at the same time as he was playing drums. "I was doing transmitter and radioelectronics just for fun," he recalls.

Although he continued to play drums in a variety of Improv projects through the 80s and into the 90s (experimental rock group Analecta; and combinations with Luc Houtkamp, Fred van Hove and Johannes Bauer, Mats Gustafsson).

Prins finally had the bright spark of combining his electronic knowledge with his musical endeavours ; there was a crossover period when Prins was playing electronics and drums simultaneously, but since 1998 he has devoted himself solely to his circuitry. Significantly, he says that he still feels like he's playing drums with his current set-up, and over the years he has developed a remarkable expressive and frequently percussive facility with his electronics.

He continues to refine his equipment at home through a process of trial and error.

A feature of Prins's system is also that it can incorporate a line / or microphone feed from a live instrumentalist.

Prins is a member of MIMEO, the electronics 'supergroup' formed around AMM guitarist Keith Rowe that played a large part in raising the profile of the new generation of electronic players among improvised music audiences.

Historically Prins's work has many precedents, from the homemade boxes and circuits of John Cage's great collaborator David Tudor, to the 'cracked everyday electronics' of the Swiss duo Voice Crack.

Then there are the folk who have subverted the normal functioning of the domestic CD player such as Nic Collins.

But Prins suggests his work is close to the no-input mixing desk system used as a performance instrument. But that system is more straightforward, more clean, less chaotic than mine," he quickly qualifies. "You can control it more easily. I like to work with something that is a little bit unstable and out of control.

cd's & records gj prins

discography:

- 2002 the vacuum boys play songs from the sea of love cd fire inc
- 2002 gj prins rg 58 gj lp creamgarden
- 2002 mimeo / john tilbury the hands of caravaggio cd erstwhile
- 2002 van bergen / prins / fennesz dawn cd grob
- 2001 fuhler / prins the flirts cd erstwhile
- 2000 gert-jan prins prinslive cd grob
- 2000 various artists international live electronic music incorporated cd x-or
- 2000 mimeo electric chair + table 2-cd grob
- 2000 e-rax van bergen lehn prins live at the bimhuis 99 cd x-or
- 1999 gert-jan prins sub 8 & 9 maxi single a-musik sieben
- 1999 mimeo music in movement electronic orchestra cd perditionplastics
- 1999 l'oops werner puntigam / gj prins, live @ café strom, linz cd ixthuluh
- 1999 anne la berge / gj prins united noise toys live in utrecht '98 cd x-or
- 1998 mimeo music in movement electronic orchestra queue cd grob
- 1998 various artists the cocktail event cd staalplaat
- 1998 luc houtkamp the duo recordings various artists cd x-or
- 1998 gert-jan prins noise capture x-or cd 08
- 1997 houtkamp / van hove / prins live in canada cd x-or
- 1997 mengelberg / gustafsson / prins live in holland cd x-or
- 1997 various artists x-or on tour! cd x-or
- 1996 mengelberg / houtkamp / prins various artists cd x-or
- 1994 analecta body o' graphic cd x-or
- 1994 houtkamp / beukman / prins / bauer metslawier cd x-or
- 1993 analecta what you hear is where you are cd x-or
- 1988 gorgonzola legs piscatorial debris cd exart