

NurNichtNur: one of the four or five most important labels on the German AND European improvised scene, of which clarinetist and saxophonist Joachim Zoepf is a pillar. Of all these high-flying "post-Evan Parker" reed blowers (Fuchs, Doneda, Leimgruber, Butcher, Keune, Van Bergen, Wissell), he is probably one of the least listed, despite the remarkable list of his recordings with first-rate improvisers. Paul Hubweber, Gunter Christmann, Alex Frangenheim, Hans Schneider, Marc Charig, Michael Griener, Hans Tammen and percussionist Wolfgang Schliemann with whom he recorded a superb duo (in my opinion a must) *Zweieiige Zwillinge* on the label NurNichtNur, precisely. Today, he has become the trusted man of the genius Gunter Christmann, one of the two pioneers of Germanic radical improvisation (with and in the company of Paul Lovens) during the 1970s. JZ collaborates closely with Explico Editions of the latter and this label has produced its remarkable solo album *Bagatellen*. Printed in 100 copies, *Geschmacksarbeit*, his sixth solo album, documents his *Kurzwellen für Sopran-Saxofon und Computer interface* and his *Langwellen für Bass Clarinet und Computer Interface* (2017 - 2018). This kind of approach only holds up if the use of interactive electronics brings a new dimension to the acoustic instrument by giving it a subtle, assumed symbiosis, an increase in tension, an interesting textural extension, etc.... It avoids the aesthetic pitfall of the evanescent counterpoint, the interaction in question, the response or the jamming of a disembodied noisy track. A large part of the interest lies in the textural sound envelope of the electronic medium which takes on certain attributes of the loops of the breath (fingering, articulation, etc.) while transforming them in such a way as to increase their roughness, friction, density, dynamics. Compared to some essays by well-known colleagues, his approach with electronics stands out in my opinion without hesitation. We are moving beyond the stage of the interesting or honorable attempt. It is true that for a free improviser, it is better to look for and try to discover something new than to break down open doors. But it is also necessary to convince in absolute terms. With his *kurz-* and *langwellen*, Joachim Zoepf goes further, he gives us a vital work that sublimates his enthusiastic breathing ability.

(Ornyx - Jean-Michel Van Schouwburg)