

ARTISTS: RANDY GREIF, PIERRE PERET, THE PSYCHIC WORKSHOP, SOCIAL INTERIORS, IF, BWANA, CRAWLING WITH TARTS, VIOLENCE AND THE SACRED, ART INTERFACE, MINOY, SILENT, BUT DEADLY, JPM STUDIOS, JOSEPH NECHVATAL, A PLACE TO PRAY, MAURICE METHOT, MICHAEL CHOCKOLAK, DANCE



Angela

"Media Myth" is a diverse collection of audio artifacts relating to the reproduction and dissemination of sound information throughout our postindustrial society. The artists participating on the tape all produce work that can alternately be described as postmodern, poststructuralist, postconceptual, or be in one way or another related to deconstruction; yet this work should not be so easily summarily categorized, in fact if any generalizations can be made about this work, it is that it explicitly eschews simple categorization. Instead it seeks to problematize the authority of the category and to put forward a postmediated decentralization strategy aimed at reappropriating our collective, mass-media polluted consciousness.

The myth of the media as our great legitimizer and normalizer comes under scrutiny within the work presented here, as do various conceptual and musical stereotypes as constantly reproduced by the mainstream media. The works for this tape were chosen due to their power to deconstruct and critically re-open the closure created by dominant (corporate media) false consciousness. They travail against the medias' oppressive mythologizing function, both by taking control of production and in making the listeners aware of their own victimization and collusion. They belie the standards of the ubiquitous media which limit discourse, standards of closure which petrify communications into stereotypical reproduction, and thereby diminish critique and value. With their emphasis on ambiguity and plurality, these works mutate the ideology of the medias' standard code of signification—the conventional, rigid social sign with its constant reiteration of limited meaning. By transgressing the media sign and opening it up to malleable and combinatory meanings, these works ask us to hear more closely our own underlying assumptions, purged from convention.

The artists on "Media Myth" focus then on the rhetoric of their own existence (which is media), and in one way or another compel us to take notice of the various ways listening conventions mold listeners' responses and regular discursive meaning.

—Joseph Nechvatal

SIDE A

- 1) **THE RIFT IN THE EARTH**—Randy Greif. Words and voice by Alva Svoboda. (8:15)
- 2) **GAIA, LA TERRE** (Excerpt)—Pierre Peret. Musique Realisee Avec Des Elements Naturels. (3:45)
- 3) **APOCALYPSE** from *Transmissions of Decadence*—The Psychic Workshop. (2:26)
- 4) **RUSSIAN AROUND**—Social Interiors (Fahey/Rue) (2:32)
- 5) **THE SOUND OF . . .**—If, Bwana (2:55)
- 6) **PLOWING AND TILLING**—Crawling With Tarts (5:21)
- 7) **TEDDY BEAR STINKS REAL BAD NOW** (Excerpt)—Violence and The Sacred (2:47)
- 8) **MUSIC FOR FANS #1**—Art Interface (5:17)

SIDE B

- 1) **TANGO**—MinoY (5:34)
- 2) **DEVIL'S MUSIC 1** (Excerpt)—Nicolas Collins. Fragments of radio broadcasts are digitally sampled, looped, retrigged, reversed and detuned. From Trace Elements Records 1986 *Devil's Music*, used by permission. (3:15)
- 3) **WHAT'S NEW PUSSY?**—Silent, But Deadly. Tom Jones and Ed Special. Steve Lawrence and Hairry Beanball. (3:42)
- 4) **#5**—JPM Studios. (2:41)
- 5) **PSYCHEDELIC HERMENEUTIC**—Joseph Nechvatal. (1:37)
- 6) **THELEMA** (Excerpt)—A Place To Pray. (5:13)
- 7) **OVERTURE FROM LA DOLAROSA**—Maurice Methot. (2:08)
- 8) **SKOMOROKHI**—Michael Chockolak. Voice: Misha. (2:59)
- 9) **NAGASAKI**—Dance (Tabb/Gossett). (4:20)

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RECOMMENDED READING

White Walls—A Magazine of Writings by Artists, PO Box 8204, Chicago, IL 60680.

Subscriptions: \$13/3 issues, foreign \$18, overseas airmail \$28.

The Journal of Contemporary Art, 330 E. 19th St. Box CC, New York, NY 10003.

Subscriptions: 1 year, 2 issues/\$10.00.

New Observations, 142 Greene St. New York, NY 10012. Subscription: 10 issues/\$22.00