

Art Pop Intersections

This practice-based research represents a portion of my creative output centred on collaborations with the UK art pop band Dutch Uncles, their primary composer Robin Richards and a conceptually related release by the ensemble Manchester Collective. The collection comprises two full length albums (Dutch Uncles – O Shudder / Big Balloon), two film scores (Birdsong, Stories from Pripyat / The Earth Asleep) and two EP's (Robin Richards – Castel / Manchester Collective - Recreation).

The research focusses on the development of studio and on-location production techniques which I established to best capture and present music which sought to exist outside of easily defined genre; between contemporary classical, electronic / electroacoustic and alternative popular forms.

The research was led by the central research questions:

- How might traditional 'classical' instrumental capture be developed in order to present the forces in new contexts; in seeking to incorporate these instruments within arrangements focussed on dense interplay between traditional 'guitar band' instrumentation and electronics how would I be required to alter accepted practices?
- How do audiences understand the meanings inherent in the spatial and timbral presentation of recorded music. Can these associations be drawn upon to frame the aural reading of music which seeks to exist in a public space not yet easily defined?

The recordings in the collection were captured utilising both traditional and innovative techniques in a variety of spaces which were chosen specifically to address the research questions. Upon mixdown, the recordings were often treated in a radically different way to that of traditional self-balancing acoustic works. The outputs have been released internationally by the influential labels Memphis Industries, Prah and Bedroom Community, receiving significant funding specifically in order to enable ambitious instrumental arrangements and recording methodologies (PRSF Momentum Fund). The Films and accompanying scores were made possible via ACE, HOME (Manchester) and the Japanese Sasakawa Foundation.