

Born in 1980 (Paris-France), Delphine Dora is a french artist, who learned the piano (classical background) as a child for 9 years (from 6 years old to 15). She started to do music again at the age of 23, concentrating to record her own stuff, more spontaneously : free-form songs, in an imaginary or existing language, exploring the many possibilities of piano and voice expression.

A diva of piano improvisation and versatile personality, she unveils her hints of lunacy through often short but sometimes endless pieces, crowded with ghostly characters, and fragile to extreme vocals which cannot let anybody feel indifferent. Drawing inspirations from diverse musical influences, her music defies categorization, we can hear echos of pop, free folk, psychedelic music, classical music, free jazz, and improvised & experimental stuff, in different recordings. Her music can be described sometimes minimalist, fragile, raw, melodic, intimate, exuberant, aggressive or wild.

If she treated her voice as an instrument in different past recordings, most of her songs take inspirations from themes such as memories, time, space, distances, otherness, human condition. Besides music, she's also taking her inspirations from poetry, literature, visual arts, natural landscapes, reflections in her work.

Early Works

In her past, she distilled sounds that were closer to performance than composition, grasping tightly the fragility and the disquiet of the discovery of oneself, in its rawest expression. After having published her first works in the "Musics in margins" series of Another record in 2005, she shared her intimacy, with recordings of very short piano pieces ("floating existence", "confusion of myself", "blablabla"), put to tape using a fairly DIY technique with an old tape machine, with voices using a language only she knows thus opening the gates of our imagination.

Collaborations

She released in 2007 a collaborative album of improvisations and instant compositions "we're all of this" around her piano pieces and all sorts, with her friends Valérie Leclercq aka Half Asleep and Jullian Angel, gathered eclectic influences ranging from free folk, to cabaret, from piano music to psychedelia. She released also the same year, a collaboration : Dora'li "Saeglin" with her friend 'Li (Aurélie Viaud, the ex-singer of the "cult" french noise band Gina Artworth), music which is in the same time dissonant, raw or avant-gardist, with witchy vocals and imaginary language : «Dora'li have succeeded in creating an entirely new music here and I have no idea how to classify it». She collaborated also later with italian musician Salvatore Borrelli on his avant-and-weird-folk project Harps of Fuschia Kalmia for a blend collage of traditional folk, field recordings, organic drones and percussions.

Live Performances

She performed very rarely live, but she had opportunities to share some stages with international artists such as baby Dee (USA), Lau Nau (FIN), James Blackshaw (UK). In her live performances, she played piano improvisations, made kind of scores for short movies «Meshes of the Afternoon» and «At Land» of the avant-garde filmmaker Maya Deren.

New Idea and Musical Directions

More recently, she released an album of piano/vocal songs based on poems by Walt Whitman "Leaves of Grass". She co-directed a project of improvised songs between folk and jazz, performed by children aged 7, 9 and 12 years. She recorded in 2010 a concept album of songs, a new collaboration with her friend, the belgian singer/songwriter Half Asleep, on the theme of alienation around songs inspired by real or fictional characters (Beckett's Molloy, Zelda Fitzgerald, Sarah Kane ...)

Improvisations

As an improviser, her recent instrumental work is based on a further exploration of the piano. Taking more an experimental approach, her new improvisations or spontaneous compositions develop a new language utilizing both the inside as well as the exterior parts of the piano, inspired by contemporary, avant-garde, free improvisation...

She's trying to concentrate more on instrumental works in the future, both piano solo and collaborations with musicians all around the globe. She's finished to record a trio of piano with jazz and free improvisation musicians (the clarinetist and prolific Paulo Chagas and the double-bassist Bruno Duplant).

Short bio

Born in 1980, Delphine Dora is a pianist, improviser, singer, and songwriter from France. She did many solo or collaboration recordings in the past and now, released on micro independent labels or available by free download by Archive.org or Free Music Archive, of weird, unclassifiable or intimate music more or less structured ; a voice alternating and ranging of the spectrum from screams to whispers...

If her musical curiosity without limits led her to collaborate with artists from different musical spheres : songwriting/folk music (Jullian Angel, Half asleep) noise music/post-rock (Li), experimental-weird-folk (Salvatore Borelli), free jazz and improvised music (Paulo Chagas, Dupla Bruno), her music is still based around the piano, her instrument of choice. Her solo piano and collaborations projects, from piano vignettes in the classical form to avant-garde and free improvisations, using both outside and inside piano, show her unfinished taste for new territories...

Recent projects include an adaptation of Walt Whitman «leaves of grass», a trio instrumental and improvised album (piano/double bass/clarinet), a conceptual and collaboration album based on the theme of alienation inspired by real or fictional characters (Molloy, Sarah Kane, Zelda Fitzgerald...).

