



48 Cameras

The belgian (although quite international) band 48 Cameras is not so very well known and as a matter of fact : that's partly our fault too... Time to change things and to run in... Some time ago the label Transonic released the 48 Cameras album '»Right North«, She Said' and on this very moment the group is working on their new album 'We Could Bring Silk in May'. Kind of sandwiched between we do find this long and dark soundscape with the poëtic name 'From a River to a Hill'. Along the source material we do hear some samples from Angus MacLise, Velvet Underground's percussionist right before Moe Tucker. Nice, but it's something else that makes the soundscape much more interesting and that's the multiple use of ethnic sound sources. The sporadic drone of a Tampura (chordophone from India), Himalayan singing bowls (not especially aTibetan privilege) and didgeridoo does it's work well; but it's even more the ethnic singing styles that are grabbing my attention. Almost immediatly at the beginning of the track we can hear the sound of praying Tibetan monks (maybe David Tibet could tell us wich ritual is performed here) and those who love this are knowing what this means... Even more exceptional is the use of a field recording /sample of Katajjaq, a typical Inuit vocal game. During Katajjaq two players (usually women) are standing with their belly squeezed against each other, whilst they are making noises like a the gnarls of seals. First one to fall out of breath or to laugh is losing... Try at home: fun fun fun... The effect of the sample on the soundscape, however, is that of mystery. The track ends in beauty with the clattering instrumental finale of the Tibetan buddhist ritual. 47 of minutes mesmirizing and half-ritmic splendour...

For this project 48 Cameras consisted out of a 9-headed combo, under wich Human Greed's Michael Begg and of course founding member Jean M. Mathoul. If you are getting curieus (I hope so) then you can visit the band's bandcamppage, only to find nearly all of their previous eleven albums reday for a (free?) download. You should be busy doing this.