

institut für elektronische musik und akustik



Open CUBE – Konzertreihe

Frank Gratkowski



Dienstag, 27.11.2012, 20 Uhr, IEM CUBE, Inffeldgasse 10/3, 8010 Graz

In Zusammenarbeit mit der Gesellschaft zur Förderung von Elektronischer Musik und Akustik – GesFEMA

Articulations E for Alto Saxophone with Live Electronics

Having worked for several years with his own programs designed as composition aids, Frank Gratkowski wanted to deepen his research in the field of live electronics. This began with a 6 week residency in 2010 at the CNMAT in Berkeley California, which was made possible by a grant from the Goethe Institute. A further residency followed in 2011. During the residency he developed and built a controller for the saxophone and bass clarinet which can be controlled during playing and made to program the new “instrument” with MaxMsp.

The player moves freely in the space. Attached to the instrument is a specially designed controller over which the player can control the live electronics. There are no pre-recorded sounds – all of the sound material is generated by the live saxophone and clarinet and projected through 8 loud speakers.

Frank Gratkowski

Born in Hamburg, 1963. Started playing the saxophone at 16 and, following a period at the Hamburg Conservatory (Hamburger Musikhochschule), moved in 1985 to study at the Cologne Conservatory of Music with Heiner Wiberny, graduating in 1990. Further studies with Charlie Mariano, Sal Nistico and Steve Lacy. Frank has been working as a soloist in various international formations (Grubenklang Orchester, Klaus Koenig Orchester, Musikfabrik NRW, Tony Oxley Celebration Orchestra, Bentje Braam, BikBentBraam, All Ears, Zeitkratzer, WDR Big band, etc.). Since 1990 he has been giving solo performances throughout Europe, Canada and USA. With his first solo program, he was a 1991 prizewinner in the Musik Kreativ contest. The release of the solo CD “Artikulationen” followed the same year and a new one “Artikulationen II” in 2002. Since 1992 he has been working in a duo with the pianist Georg Graewe (CD “VicissEtudes”). The duo is often extended through the participation of different additional musicians, such as drummer Paul Lovens (CD “Quicksand”) and bassist John Lindberg (CD “Arrears”).

In 1995 he founded the “Frank Gratkowski Trio” with Dieter Manderscheid (Germany), bass, and Gerry Hemingway (USA), drums, (CDs “Gestalten” and “The Flume Factor”). In 2000 the trio has been extended to a quartet by Dutch trombonist Wolter Wierbos (CDs “Kollaps”, “Spectral Reflections” and “Facio”). Since 2003 also appearing as a Double Quartet plus Tobias Delius, Herb Robertson, Wilbert DeJoode and Michael Vatcher. In 2005 he got the SWR Jazzprize.

In 1999 the duo with the Italian trombonist Sebastiano Tramontana has been formed and since 2001 Frank Gratkowski has been performing with a trio including Wilbert De Jode (NL) on bass and Achim Kaufmann (D) on piano (CDs “Kwast” and “Unearth”). Since 2006 he’s working with the Trio Gratkowski / Brown / Winant (CD “Wake”), which played in 2009 at the Donaueschinger Musktage. He is also a co-leader / composer of the Multiple Joy[ce] Orchestra and got a commission to compose for the ensemble Apartment House by “November Music “ (Den Bosch NL) and the “Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival” (England) in 2009. Further actual projects are Fo[u]r Alto, a saxophone ensemble dedicated to microtonal music and “Artikulationen E” a solo program for saxophone with 8 channel live electronic.

Frank Gratkowski played on nearly every German and on numerous international Jazz and contemporary music Festivals including Vancouver, Toronto, Chicago, New York, Seattle, Quebec, Les Mans, Muelhuus, Groeningen, Nickelsdorf, Barcelona, Lithuania, Warsaw, Zagreb, Prague, Bratislava, Sofia, Bucharest, Odessa and Roma, Huddersfield, London. He has been teaching saxophone and ensembles at the Cologne, Berlin and Arnhem Conservatory of Music and is giving workshops all around the world.

<http://gratkowski.com>

Open CUBE – Kalendarium

18.12.12 20h00 – Open CUBE Konzert, Enrique Tomas

22.01.13 18h00 – Open CUBE Konzert, Studierender der LV Live-Elektronik von
Peter Plessas

29.01.13 18h00 – Open CUBE Konzert, Studierender der LV Computermusic
von Marko Ciciliani

Details zur Open CUBE Konzertreihe unter:

<http://iem.kug.ac.at/veranstaltungen/open-cube.html>