



18 Floors
Magda Drozd

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Liner Notes by Salomé Voegelin

18 Floors is a long way up on a building made of sound, composed without a firm ground but from movements, from the swaying of materials and the folding of textures, in constant process of taking shape and falling apart, collapsing beautifully into their own invisibility to make another formless form: playfully inventing a cavernous space 18 floors up in the air. Listening, I teeter not on a verge but in the mobile form of its fabulation. Falling with the sound into a space of folding flesh, composed from vibrations, realities and dreams.

I am in the building that Magda Drozd built from field recordings, rhythms and instrumental sounds as well as her own voice, none of which construct a house but all together meet in its mobility, in its existence as the time with which we move and rest. There are no walls, no windows or doors, there is no outline and yet there are rooms made of unseen materiality and creating a space of its voluminous expanse. Invisible textures generate a sensory environment that takes shape and untakes what we think we see travelling in its form. At once buried deep inside this mobile structure and buoyed by the outstretched rhythms of its fabrication I breath on an extended riff and come to hear as recombining. Passages and hallways, staircases of sound and pipes of sparkling connections enclose my ears and accompany my walking through. I am part of the place that its sound creates, participant of an elastic sphere that gives and extends while pressing and accommodating my body into its flow.

The actual building exists. I have been there. I have touched its walls, walked its corridors, and know its visual construction and geographical locale. It looms large and imposing in an urban landscape of which it is at once a witness and a perpetrator. Claiming a visual territory and confident of its intelligibility, it organises by division: lining up doors to mark individual spaces and drawing walls to partition rooms into solitary arrangements of living that sound reconnects through their transgression; and determining a social secession on vertical lines which sound shatters by its voluminous force, denying the privilege of a total view on the 18th floor.

The composition remembers that building not by its floorplans or from representation, but as a sense of time made from sound and the dematerialisation of place, collapsing surface textures and swaying materiality, conjoined in an expansive figuration. Sounding, the building and the body transform in an ambiguous morphology where human and more-than-human materialities extend in a plural form under one skin. Leaky and porous, they bleed and bend and lose their individuation to create a being of many limbs from how things are indivisibly and in complex concatenation. We share the skin of sound. Elastic, at once grasping and letting go, it incorporates our differences while generating one bodied materiality that breathes a plural cosmos in transformation: being with and of each other as a permeable and mobile form with a skin of salty air.

Salomé Voegelin, March 2021



Magda Drozd

Magda Drozd's work explores acoustic ecologies and a non-rational perception of the world through sound. *Songs for Plants*, the debut album by the Zurich and Torino-based artist and musician who is deeply concerned with listening in her artistic practice, was released in 2019 by Präsens Editionen and has reached a wide international audience of experimental music experts and fans. Her second album, *18 Floors*, Drozd focused on the apartment building she called home for several years. The artist and musician compiled a corpus of field recordings in and of the building, which she approached as a living organism rather than static material. The result challenges current assumptions about living together in urban settings. The field recordings were woven into eleven speculative tracks consisting of sounds including violins, guitars, synthesizers, drum machines, and Drozd's voice. The music moves between sound art, ambient, indie rock, and R&B.

