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The Listening Lounge

- by Christina Kubisch (May 2012, Hoppegarten)

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A vinyl record is the central item of the listening project of Elin Øyen Vister. It opens up a kind of acoustic, imaginary landscape which has been very carefully prepared by the artist.

Elin Øyen Vister knows a lot about the value of high standard technical equipment with all its details, and about the knowledge of recording, and she uses her knowledge in order to convince the public listening to nature and as well, to engage with nature. Or, better said, to the voices of nature

The long time series of field recordings from the Røst archipelago, have been done during different times and weather conditions. Elin explains the origin of her sound recordings in the reception room: we listen to her voice while she is standing in the rain and lets the listener become part of this experience. She leads people carefully to a special listening room, she donates them time and quietness. Time to concentrate on pure listening in a room without any visual elements other than the record player. She transforms the simple act of listening into a personal performance, in which she takes part by explaining personally her work to each listener.

The artist considers herself an environmental activist, but she transforms her ideas and enthusiasm not through a direct political statement, but through the connection to the "original". She does not hide the hardware, she uses the technique

in favour of the natural environments, and she uses it for the direct and best dialogue a person can have with nature: the feeling of being there; in the middle of the landscape of Røst with its incredible environment of bird sounds.

Her purpose to dedicate the next years in the research of the islands acoustic and the life of its inhabitants, will certainly lead to great results if she continues to maintain the balance between the original emotion and its transformations into sound art.

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*Stillbilde fra
Lytteloungen,
foto: Kjell Ove Storvik,
NNKS, Svolvær*

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