

INSTRUCTIONAL SCULPTURE FOR CHILDREN | ROOT*STRATA 2005



Using field recordings utilizing piezo contact microphones at San Francisco's Exploratorium Museum, this 26-minute sound work incorporates melodic tape loops and samples subtly treated by the computer. The work is also the soundtrack to the video "Flore-Pleno" (double-flowered). The artwork is a three-color hand silk screened edition of 100.

REVIEWS:

"The undulating drones and scraped loops which provide the backbone for the beautifully packaged debut recording for San Francisco's John Davis could have easily been plucked from a Phil Niblock or Andrew Chalk composition; but in fact their origins lie in the interactive exhibitions found at the Exploratorium, SF's one of a kind museum of science, art, and human perception. If you've never had the opportunity to get to the Exploratorium, it's well worth the visit, as there's tons of contraptions designed to illuminate, educate, and

amaze. Armed with a Mini Disc recorder, a good mic, and a willingness to explore, Davis captured many of the links, plonks, and bongs from the Exploratorium's many exhibits that demonstrate any number of acoustic phenomena. He then ran these field recordings through a battery of Max/MSP patches to arrive at this spiralling cloud of pixelated smears, golden drones, and a variety of those aforementioned plink, plonks, and bongs. Davis certainly draws from the aesthetics of Stephan Mathieu and Fennesz, adding a mechanical and metallic clamour into the mix."

- Aquarius Records, San Francisco

"Can't go wrong with Root Strata these days. Also recommended is the excellent "Instructional Sculpture for Children" CD-R by John Davis. Unfortunately I don't think it's the same John Davis who put out a handful of great albums on Shrimper back in the day, but it's still a lovely 26-minute journey. It's like multiple tracks all jammed together into one. Really nice."

- Brad Rose, Foxy Digitalis