

# BIN

**Roberta Settels: Isolation!** [BIN 00-02] LP

Roberta Settels is an American composer and industrial designer, currently living in Stockholm, Sweden. She studied composition at Juilliard in New York, and during the 70-ties and 80-ties, composed electronic music in Stockholm at EMS, and in Paris at IRCAM, and studied with the composers Pierre Boulez and Iannis Xenakis. Later she created her own studio.

*Isolation* from 1985 is her only released recording. It was released on her private label "Music in Crisis".

Although 'Isolation' was composed in 1985, most parts of it sound very fresh and contemporary. Very unique for its time, the timbres and formal progression of the work bear little resemblance to the electroacoustic maximalism of the period. Rather it shares aesthetics with contemporary genres such as Lowercase and Microsound.

The music, all generated by pure analog means, contains elements of extreme minimalism and splicing-techniques derived from the tape-music tradition. Even though the work, making clever use of sine-waves and white noise, it is very minimal in its expression, and very clearly communicates the emotional states of loneliness and isolation which are its conceptual aim.

The work is divided into four parts: *Landscape With 3 tape-recorders And...*, *Scenario*, *Isolation (Meinhof In Memoriam)* and *P1 - Information?*, forming a perceived whole.

This re-release comes in a limited edition with a custom-made plastic sleeve, with the original cover and cover-notes in Swedish, English, German and French, written and designed by the composer.

Tracklist:

A1: <i>Landscape With 3 tape-recorders And...</i>	(12:03)
A2: <i>Scenario</i>	(9:07)
B1: <i>Isolation! (Meinhof in memoriam)</i>	(43:9)
B2: <i>P1 - Information?</i>	(3:33)

**totem.menneske.dk**

Review excerpts:

*Is this really from 1985? Very, very hard to believe, but if it's true, then it's truly a forgotten classic. Here the silence of say Lopez, Meelkop, Behrens or Chartier is forecast by some fifteen years. A sparse tone here and there, a sine wave, isolated from the rest. Only in the fourth part, 'P1 - Information?' there is a sudden lot of activity, but even then it still remains sparse.*

*Frightening music, sounding the isolated work inside a prison cell very well.*

- Frans De Waard, Vital Weekly

*This is uneasy music....Settels offers her music as a means of spiritual survival, when it rather bravely confronts the reality of spiritual extinction; an example, perhaps, of creative endeavor better and more profound than the creator's intentions or understanding.*

- The Wire Magazine