



Tu m'

TU M' IS THE ITALIAN DUO OF ROSSANO

Polidoro and Emiliano Romanelli, their moniker taken from Duchamp's last painting "Tu m'." Their artistic work together is oriented primarily towards the sonic, with visuals playing a complimentary and often equal role. As they describe it, "You might say visuals represent our music made visible; music and image find themselves in a confrontation whose ultimate goal is fusion into a unique entity." Building their signatures out of an abridged matrix of defrocked chimes and guitars suffused through the obligatory laptop, they have risen to musical prominence across a wide range of releases on diverse labels such as Phtalo, Fallt, Cut, and ERS/Staalplaat, having recently formed a new group called Steno with Frank Metzger (ex Oval). Their work is a kind of sound/image tapestry using discarded sources, the results leaning at times towards noise itself, but with a delicate style that ties it into a very cohesive and—dare the word be used—beautiful experience.

As though creating quality art were not enough, the two also curate a couple of labels that feature internationally active musicians. The web-based Tu M'p3 label offers a consistent stream of new works by a variety of sound artists asked to marry a visual image produced by Tu M' to a sound module, while Mr. Mutt Records is the more traditional arm, seeing the realization of limited issue CDRs housed in vibrant, pastel-flavored sleeves.

Never ones to rest on their laurels, the duo's latest, *Just One Night* (Dekorder), tweaks the pixels of the pituitary in their usual disarming fashion. Next comes a live EP on Fallt, *Soap Opera*, and a collaboration with fellow nonconformist Simon Fisher Turner. And as for the existing "conformity" of the laptop, the answer is blatantly obvious, "It is a complex instrument with a strong identity and "memory," wholly bound by the personality behind it." Unlike Duchamp, the 'tops of Tu M' have yet to speak their last words. **RODDY SCHROCK**