

## ARTO LINDSAY

Arto Lindsay has made a lifelong habit of crossing both geographical and musical borders. Born in the United States and raised in Brazil during the heyday of that country's pointedly eclectic Tropicália movement of the 1960s, the multi-faceted songwriter/producer/vocalist/guitarist has forged an international reputation as an artist whose work is as seductive as it is challenging. From his late '70s recordings of abrasive "no wave" through his acclaimed series of solo albums beginning in the late '90s, Lindsay has bonded rhythms and melodies from diverse cultures and genres in provocative new ways, crafting inimitable soundscapes whose impact can range from fragile pop pleasure to sheer sonic assault.

It was the 1978 four-band sampler *No New York* (produced by Brian Eno) which brought an early taste of international (albeit underground) notoriety to Lindsay's first band, DNA. Critic Lester Bangs admiringly described the trio's screamed vocals and deliberately primitive, speaker-shredding guitar as "horrible noise." Lindsay and his bandmates frequently inserted Portuguese phrases in their lyrics and even tried to appropriate Brazilian drumming techniques, "but nobody could really tell," he now recalls. While the group only lasted a brief time, its influence can still be heard in the work of countless noise-rock experimentalists ever since.

Lindsay remained a key figure in the downtown Manhattan scene throughout the 1980s, playing with early versions of the Lounge Lizards and the Golden Palominos, producing tracks for Laurie Anderson and David Byrne, collaborating with John Zorn, contributing lyric translations to compilations of Brazilian music on Byrne's label Luaka Bop, even popping up in the films *Desperately Seeking Susan* and *Candy Mountain*. With keyboardist Peter Scherer he founded the Ambitious Lovers, recording three albums (*Envy*, *Greed*, and *Lust*) which incorporated elements of Brazilian, experimental, funk, R&B, and soul styles.

The 1990s launched an ongoing series of solo releases — *O Corpo Sutil / The Subtle Body*, *Mundo Civilizado*, *Noon Chill* and *Prize*. Lindsay's new album, *Invoke*, continues to explore samba, bossa

nova and more recent Brazilian song structures on his own terms. Each of these albums has been followed by a disc of remixes by a diverse group of electronic music artists from around the world, making explicit the connections between Lindsay's aesthetic and such genres as drum-and-bass, illbient and underground hip-hop.

Lindsay's critical reputation brought him back to Brazil to work as a producer on recordings by Caetano Veloso, Vinicius Cantuária, Gal Costa, and Carlinhos Brown, among others. A 1999 New York Times article on the legacy of the Tropicália movement hailed Lindsay's contributions to "the finest Brazilian pop albums of the past dozen years," and he earned a Latin Grammy for "Best Brazilian Contemporary Pop Album" for his production work on the platinum-selling Marisa Monte album, *Memórias, Crônicas e Declarações de Amor*. Lindsay's longstanding association with Monte subsequently led to his producing the music for her recent live DVD.

On yet another front, Lindsay has long been active in the field of sound art as both a curator and as an installation artist in his own right. Frequently working with sound designer /artist Ben Rubin, Arto has curated music and audio art for Brazil's Carlton Arts Festival, London's Barbican Centre and the nightclub Tonic in downtown New York. In the process, he has become one of the first musicians to use Dolby Digital 5.1 surround-sound in a live concert format. Lindsay's past collaborators include German theater director Heiner Muller, Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto, American multidisciplinary artist Vito Acconci and British producer/conceptualist Brian Eno, and he has recently been commissioned by choreographer Richard Move, a mainstay of New York's legendary Jackie 60 nightclub, to compose music for a full-evening dance/theater piece for Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Company.

Pop musician, audio provocateur, sought-after producer: regardless of the title, Arto Lindsay is an artist.