

Avant-garde as a lifestyle

Controversy as the pulse of progress?

When I looked at the commentaries on the very short interview with my own guest, for which I have asked some specialists – I recognized that I had to be crazy, and in for it now. The reason being: These comments are largely critical. And then the question arose: what should they actually be like? Flattering? Hagiographic? Analyzing the genius? I do not think John Zorn is looking for that. He mostly seems to want to be left alone.

The fact that people decide to “sin” by talking about art so often and so willingly, even though the reception of art allegedly needs no words – is a fascinating phenomenon in itself. It should not be underestimated, but at the same time, we need to respect the distance of some artists.

The papers in this AVANT issue show us what a great role in our mental processes is played by the whole body, its space, life functions, and interactions with the environment. The point is not that the body is involved in our experience of the world. The point is that we even delegate some of our thinking to the environment.

It's hard to find a better counterpoint. Here Art goes beyond itself, exceeding the crude relationship between the show and the spectator gaping in amazement. It provokes thought and words, reflection, analysis, critique, proliferates texts and dedicated commentaries. This is what we caused here, multiplying the bread of words (or even – if we look self-critically – turning wine into water).

At the same time I propose to look at our guests' specialties. This group (to which no philosopher was invited) is enough to show, what kind of a bloodstream is driven by the practice of music.

Let the *Avant-garde* remain a “black box”. *Avant-garde as a lifestyle*, however, is not just a slogan from a potential artistic manifesto, but also a possible term for a structure whose equally important and needed participants would be: artists, listeners, epigones, critics, scholars, snobs, organizers, technicians, officials... and also ignoramuses, who remain invaluable to progress.

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