

## TREMBLING SUPERHEROES

**Esbjerg Ensemble & Tanja Zapolski play Juliana Hodkinson at Wundergrund festival, Hofteatret Cph, 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2014**

Using toys, feathers, matches, eggshells, heavy metal, stones and water alongside classical instruments and field recordings sourced from environs both political and domestic, Juliana Hodkinson's chamber works encourage musicians to pursue a theatre of sounds, bringing together heterogeneous elements and sonic non-sequiturs in moments of alternating contrast and fusion.

Scratching and scraping from the tiniest of sounds at the threshold of silence through to the brutal roar of metals and motors, the scale and range of the works varies from extreme reduction to overload. Romantic Nordic seascapes are punctured by the sounds of gunshots fired in Gazan waters; toy robots interrupt Fisher Price-rendered nursery-rhymes in a Webernian setting. The perennial themes of life and art's basic existential quandries pose themselves in sound with tragi-comic naivety and persistence, taking the listener from the musical cradle to very close by the grave.

This is Juliana Hodkinson's first portrait concert in Denmark, with acoustic, semi-theatrical and electro-acoustic works dating from 1999 to 2014, and features several works receiving their Danish premiere, including her new electro-acoustic seascape work, written specially for Esbjerg Ensemble, *The Coastline Piece III: West*, fresh from its premiere at Klangspuren in Austria last month.

### Programme (not in running order, some items tbc):

- *When the wind blows* (2009) (4 min), for solo piano with toys and audio playback
- *Ring a Ring* (2014) (3 min), for solo piano with electronic pocket piano
- *All that we cannot say* (2001) (15 min), for oboe, cello and matches (tbc)
- *The Coastline Piece III: West* (2014) (20 min), for amplified ensemble, beach-objects and field recordings
- *Why linger you trembling in your shell?* (1999) (10 min), for violin and percussion, with feathers, egg-shells and table-tennis balls
- *All my friends really are superheroes* (2011) (3 min), for solo horn with audio samples
- *Scrape* (2009) (10 min), for solo amplified and distorted cello with metal plate and industrial audio samples

and as a welcome guest intrusion:

- Rolf Wallin's *Scratch*, (1991), for amplified balloon(s) (tbc)