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AGIT-DISCO

COMPILED BY STEFAN SZCZELKUN, EDITED BY ANTHONY ILES

Agit Disco collects the playlists of its 23 writers to tell the story of how music has politically influenced and inspired them. The book provides a multi-genre survey of political musics, from a wide range of viewpoints, that goes beyond protest songs into the darker hinterlands of musical meaning. Each playlist is annotated and illustrated. The collection grew organically with an exchange of homemade CDs and images. These images, with their DIY graphics, are used to give the playlists a visual materiality.

Almost everyone makes selections of music to play to themselves and friends. *Agit Disco* intends to show the importance of this creative activity and its place in our formation as political beings. This activity is at odds with the usual process of selection by the mainstream media - in which the most potent musical agents of change are, whenever possible, erased from the public airwaves.

Agit Disco Selectors: Sian Addicott, Louise Carolin, Peter Conlin, Mel Croucher, Martin Dixon, John Eden, Sarah Falloon, Simon Ford, Peter Haining, Stewart Home, Tom Jennings, DJ Krautpleaser, Roger McKinley, Micheline Mason, Tracey Moberly, Luca Paci, Room 13 – Lochyside Scotland, Howard Slater, Johnny Spencer, Stefan Szczelkun, Andy T, Neil Transpontine, Tom Vague

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About the author:

Stefan Szczelkun was first published in the early Seventies when he put together the *Survival Scrapbooks* series with Unicorn Books. His next published work was an exploration of working class identity with the trilogy; *Collaborations*, *Class Myths* and *Culture and Conspiracy of Good Taste* with Working Press in the Eighties. A doctoral study of *Exploding Cinema: culture and democracy* at the RCA followed in the late Nineties and led to a series of DVD's, a part-time job at University of Westminster and theoretical interests that led to the Agit Disco project.

About the editor:

Anthony Iles is a writer of criticism, fiction and theory, based in London. He is assistant editor of *Mute*, an online and quarterly print magazine, editor of the book, with Mattin, *Noise & Capitalism* (2009), co-author, with Josephine Berry Slater, *No Room to Move: Radical Art and the Regenerate City* (2010) and a contributor, with Marina Vishmidt, to the book *Communization and its Discontents* (2011).

Key Selling Points

- Agit-Disco is a unique artistic project on the politics of music.
- Agit-Disco explores the social phenomenon of grassroots in music at a unique juncture between online and offline peer to peer culture.
- Agit-Disco comprises an amateur-driven sociology of music - or ethno-musicology of culture drawing music and politics into a close relationship.

Subject headings

Art, Internet Art, Music studies, Ethno-musicology, Humanities, Politics, Sociology, Cultural studies, Folk music, Folk art, Social movement studies, Anarchism, Collections and collectors, Museology/ curating

Book details:

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Mute Books is the imprint series of *Mute* Magazine. It specialises in cultural politics and gives more space to the many distinctive voices and practitioners that the magazine has hosted since its inception in 1994 or whose contribution to contemporary culture and thought deserves a more sustained focus.