

The Wire - October 2005 (issue260)

Rob Mills & Tom Scott  
DRIPSPOT  
Gramophone CD-R

Easy enough to mock the 'ironic' record label name or pieces scored for bass clarinet, alto saxophone, blackbirds and jet planes. It's just that with *Dripspot* Mills and Scott so effortlessly rise above the usual run of home-produced Improv discs. The two reedsmen have an impressive track record, Mills with music and design collective Echo city (founded by Van Der Graaf Generator's Guy Evans) and Scott with Baby Trio and Rabbit; together they've worked as Big Buddha and the electronics outfit H2C7. Here, they deploy alto, soprano and clarinets on a series of spontaneous and semi-scored pieces which veer to the miniature. The title cut uses six pages of "machine drawing" as a means to explore areas of chance and choice in the context of abstract painting. "36 Views Of Mt Fuji" is pretty much what the title implies, while "24 Days Long And Short" exploits the breathy sound of B flat and bass clarinet to evoke a journey, actual or psychological. It's the strongest piece on the set. The found effects on "Connect Garden To Sky" are too arch to be effective, but by and large this is highly honest, technically robust set that deserves its moment in the light.

*Brian Morton*