**THE HIDDEN NOTES**

**By Erica Smith Ramos** (photographer, painter, writer)

When first arriving to a city like Berlin, where infinite array of colors and flavors are displayed, there always seems to be a discord in my mind as to which venue to choose from when it comes to jazz. It is possible we are initially bombarded by the traditional “must dos” in town. Now do not get me wrong; they are a must thus in my own extended experience from travelling, before all else, I try to find that distinct place called home away from home. It has to be a place where the music, the venue and I ultimately become one. A few days ago, I was very fortunate to stumble across such nook called: Sowieso.

Sowieso is a small jazz joint found in the heart of Neukölln. During the day it may be unnoted however as soon as sunset breaks in, vibrant steam of notes allure this intimate spot. Dutch painter Marc van der Kemp runs the place and holds his own private atelier in the back. For the past five years he has devoted most of his time to this unique jazz bar. The arrangement and selection in music, decor and even alcohol are carefully sought after him. As soon as you walk into this petit realm you can sense the love for art at its purest. Sowieso is not a pretentious jazz stage where great musician players simply come and deliver grand notes. It really has more to it. It would seem as though live jazz has been tailored made to fill your own private sitting room.

Dazzling blasts of improvised and experimental sounds were conveyed to my ears that night. I was delighted to hear and meet a couple of great Duos performed by pronounced German/Austrian musicians such as: Daniel Prätzlich (drums) / Ali Beierbach (saxophone) followed by Rudi Fischerlehner (drums)/ Frank Paul Schubert (saxophone).

Beierbach and Prätzlich displayed a vibrant steady tempo at the drums (as far as improvised can go) and letting loose all scales on the sax. A feeling of great communication was felt between the two and they definitely knew how to set the tone for the night. This duo continuously works together so if you have the opportunity, hearing them is without doubt. Consequently, Fischerlehner and Schubert elevated the crowd into new depths of experimental sounds. Fischerlehner really goes out of his way with his diverse usage of props on drums such as: old turntables, Chinese cymbals (traditionally used in the Beijing opera) all the way to Brazilian caxixis, shakers and so forth. These spunk improvised sounds made way to an awe-inspiring smooth attack and release by Schubert. It was a real treat to see this duo considering that it is only at special times now when they perform together. I highly recommend you listening to each of their own eclectic projects and what better yet than to presence them live.

My final word of advice: discover the hidden and make it be known to your senses. Keep the jasm alive.

Bis Dann,

-erica-

More information at:

Sowieso

http://www.sowieso-neukoelln.de/#home

Rudi Fischerlehner

<http://www.rudifischerlehner.net/rmf.html>

<http://vimeo.com/49202749>

[http://www.petervanhuffel.com](http://www.petervanhuffel.com/)

<http://www.clouds-hill.com/artists/Tonia_Reeh>

[http://www.princessinhans.de](http://www.princessinhans.de/)

Frank Paul Schubert

[**www.frankpaulschubert.de**](http://www.frankpaulschubert.de/)

<http://www.gridmesh.de/Grid_Mesh.html>

Daniel Prätzlich

<http://daniel-praetzlich.com>

http://alexanderbeierbach.de/praetzlichbeierbach

Ali Beierbach

<http://www.alexanderbeierbach.de/news.html>

http://alexanderbeierbach.de/praetzlichbeierbach