

\*\*\*\* Zlatko Kaučič & Tomaž Grom: The Ear Is The Shadow Of The Eye  
(Zavod Sploh, ZASCD 020, December 2019)

Zlatko Kaučič: perc, objects, amplified zither  
Tomaž Grom: b, freeze, voice

"Uho je senca očesa" is a masterpiece by the two veterans of the Slovenian avant-garde and probably the most abstract record of Zlatko.

On "From hands to ears" Tomaž bows, and together with the monotone kettle and gongs drumming creates a dramatic and scary mood.

"Learning lessons of memory" continues, but lightens the mood.

"Thee ear is the shadow of the eye" is, in contrast, delicate, even lyrical, with quiet noises generated by Zlatko, voices, and whispers.

"forgetting won't help" has a more "traditional" percussion and completely unexpected sounds generated by some objects, a freeze or the bass.

Here especially, but on the whole album the concept of "fake music" and "fake sounds" is playing an important role.

A 6-minute long "goldfish" and the following "cinema ear" are my favorites: the first one for its peaceful and tranquilizing mood, the second for the beautiful bass finger-picking. "two right hands" has a particularly attractive, yet dark atmosphere.

"though ashtray (pepelnik), I still like to read your poems" has more structured rhythms and unidentified other sounds.

"lucky claw" and "sound out" are notable for the great bowing of Tomaž.

The final "battling for a title" is a piece full of peaceful bass bowing and delicate percussion work.

Complex and difficult to understand music, but without any doubt worth the engagement of the listener.

Maciej Lewenstein, 5.2.2020