



Brian Olewnick

December 3, 2019 at 5:13 PM · 🌐



Like, I daresay, many, I have my share of problems with free improvising vocalists. Possibly a failure on my part but so it goes. Major exceptions, for me, are those who tend towards the quieter range of things, singers like [Ami Yoshida](#) or [Christian Kesten](#), both of whose work I love.

Otherwise, I lean toward more "traditional" singing, over a wide range of genres. But it's wonderful to find exceptions now and then, singers who straddle that self-imposed divide. One such is Irena Z. Tomažin, whose new release, *cmok v grlu / lump in the throat* (Zavod Sploh), really concentrates on the physicality of the mouth. Often subtle, sometimes eructive, she explores the oral cavity with patience, vigor and some humor, the emotional aspects--and they are there--channeled through the phenomena she discovers. Fine work.

Plus, the disc comes in a hand-stitched book which contains fantastic drawings by Matej Stupica, ink lines and washes that resemble a possible score, with strong horizontal movement, and also might be seen as distant cousins of Cardew's *Treatise*. Beautiful work.



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Cmok v grlu / Lump In The Throat, by Irena Z. Tomažin

16 track album