



## **landscape in metamorphoses | Budhaditya Chattopadhyay**

Field Recording Series by Gruenrekorder

Gruenrekorder / Germany / 2008 / Gr 057 / LC 09488/ 1 Track (26'02")/ CD-R (50 copies)

Recorded at 'tumbani', between February and April 2007.

Equipment used: 'acoustic engine' MD recorder from Sony, OKM II binaural microphone from Soundman, and occasionally a KMR shotgun from Neumann.

Recommended listening: by headphone

Tumbani is a landscape in change; from a greener pasture transforming into one of the busiest industrial belts of Bengal-Bihar border in India. This work is based on an extensive phonographic journey made in this area during the spring of 2007. The area under attention is mostly inhabited by discreet tribal population who survived with cultivation of land, hunting and a deep-rooted community tradition for many years. In the last few years the area has been discovered of its stone resources, making way into foundation of small-scale industries for cement and concrete. People and land are used in the industrialization process initiating collective change in the landscape, which is quite a common phenomenon in this developing country. A fertile land of rapid change, tumbani is one of the sites that succumbed to the euphoria over industrial development, improving lifestyle and growth, creating lapses in cultural memory. Sound captures this transformation while the acoustic space slowly changes from a rich environmental variety into a monolithic industrial soundscape. As an audio essay the work studies the trajectory of auditory metamorphoses in unprocessed field recording. From a motivation of return and revisit, being spent my childhood here, I realized, while going through the recording experience, that, the topography of my childhood already disappeared into nostalgia. Not merely a sonic representation of a transfigured landscape, this work is also a lamentation over my own personal loss of memory-associations.

*Dedicated to my father*