

KONONO NO.1

Assume Crash Position (Crammed Discs)

4/5

Words: Gordon Bruce



What do you do when you can't be heard above a din? It's unlikely that you construct your own amplifier by hollowing out some wood and fitting it with a magnet from the alternator of a scrapped car. But then you didn't revolutionize Bazombo Trance music, did you? In order for the band to pipe up over the bustle of the streets of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Konono No.1 took this approach, boosting the sound of their traditional likembés, a sort of thumb piano

which each member plays with admirable virtuosity. With a percussion section moulded from old car chassis', the result is entirely unique. The ferociously upbeat rhythms of street music meld with cosmic, distorted sounds of the likembé, Konono No.1 build energetic mantras which balance complexity with a heart warming playfulness. The band have moved away from the megaphone of previous album Congotronics to use cleaner vocals, displaying their off-kilter harmonies. Konono Wa Wa Wa, features a community of vocalists all pitching in. Whether serendipity or intention, Konono No.1 have created an inimitable sound that will capture the interest of music lovers across the globe.

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www.myspace.com/konononr1

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