

UNCOOL – ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

www.uncool.ch

Artist statement – RAN LIVNEH (upright bass, bass guitar)

<http://www.livnehran.com/>

My work explores the relationship between tone and atmosphere in traditional musical forms, nature and abstraction. A bassist by training, I compose, perform and record music using a palette of sounds in solo and ensembles performances. My compositions are inspired by both the structure of the music of Ethiopia, Morocco, Eastern Europe and the Middle East and the way these traditions are influenced by landscape. Rather than adhering strictly to these folk traditions, I explore how these sounds fit into my modern landscape by mixing electronic and acoustic elements.

I balance writing for my own groups and collaborating as performer/composer in various ensembles. My work combines notated pieces, loosely structured compositions, and improvisation. Improvisation has taught me to consider all musical possibilities and has given me a freer mindset in composing. I love to work closely with performers and draw on their knowledge and personal experience, making composition a dynamic, collaborative process. Shifting between composing for my own ensemble and writing for others has forced me to consider the challenge of creating carefully crafted, unified work in any context. It has compelled me to experience music not just as the performer, but first as the listener.

After more than a decade as a working musician in Brooklyn, it has become increasingly important that my work negotiates the tension between sound, silence, activism, community and meditation. Music alters our internal state, as a musician playing or as an audience member listening. When that music represents a fusion of our landscape and sounds from around the world, we can reflect on the constant state of change of all beings, regardless of how fixed or permanent our existence might temporarily feel.