



Moving Furniture Records: MFR005  
Artist: Jos Smolders  
Title: The Drone Gnome  
Format: Limited CD-R  
Date: Monday, September 21st, 2009

## MFR005: Jos Smolders – The Drone Gnome

The Drone Gnome is Jos Smolders his follow up album on the Gaussian Transient (Megaphone) from 2008. For this new release he has taken a major swing in his production. While Jos Smolders has very little interest in drone music for this one he for once set aside his ideas about this kind of music and instead transformed the drone to his own hands.

In his own words he describes it as followed:

In general I do not like the stuff that is categorized as drone music. There are a few exceptions but often times it is about bass and noise. Sometimes the composer mixes subtleties over the basic layer. Sounds that are barely discernable. Others filter the basic layer so that modulations occur. "Listen", people tell me, "can you hear the subtleties that are mixed into the noise?". Yes, can hear them but why does it continue to do so for 20 minutes? And why not get rid of the basic layer so that I can really enjoy those subtleties?

Another gripe is about the continuity of drone music. Whereas traditionally composers build a musical piece note by note, second by second, drone music is laid out and constructed with (very) large chunks of time. These large chunks are then connected with lengthy crossfades. On the one hand that makes it easier for the composer to get to a lengthy piece but on the other hand it is much more difficult than most people think. Controlling time in a musical piece and thereby keeping the listener's attention is mastered by only a few.

The Drone Gnome is the result of a few investigations into drone music. I don't whether I 'succeeded', but this is as close as I could get. It's my version of drone. The way I worked is that I made chunks of sound which had some sort of similarity. Sometimes the sounds are completely electronic, at other times they are loops. I really did my best to work in a traditional 'drone' way. But it didn't really work out. Still, it is worth listening to.

The first part of the first track (the one with the rising tones (drones)) is a rework of an online release at bremsstrahlung records. It is constructed using the Fibonacci rule, both in frequency and in length. The other works are 'new'.

### ABOUT Jos Smolders

Jos Smolders is one of the leading figures in the Dutch electro-acoustic music scene. His tracks lead back to begin of the 80's where he made music with improvisation group Thu20 and later started to work on a solo career also. He has released several works on renowned labels such as Staalplaat, And/OAR, Non Visual Objects and many more.

From his home studio EARLabs he keeps working on new music. Not only solo but also in collaborations with young and promising musicians in the field of electro-acoustic music.

<http://www.jossmolders.nl>

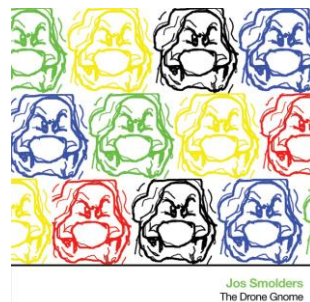
### ABOUT MOVING FURNITURE RECORDS

Moving Furniture Records was founded in October 2008 with the idea in mind of giving more unknown musicians a platform for releasing music. MFR is run by Sietse van Erve, who is based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He asks musicians he likes to hear if they want to do a release. The releases are limited to 100.

### CONTACT

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