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End of year charts: volume 5



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Friday, 18 December 2009

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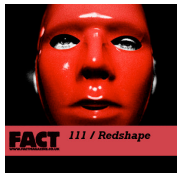
[ACTRESS](#) (pictured)

1. Cassablanca – Mzo Bullet [CD-R]
2. Bibio – *Ambivalence Avenue* [Warp]
3. Keaver & Brause – The Middle Way [Dealmaker]
4. Thriller – Freak For You / Point & Gaze [Thriller]
5. Nathan Fake – *Hard Islands* [Border Community]
6. Hudson Mohawke – *Butter* [Warp]
7. The Horrors – Primary Colours [XL]
8. Actress – Ghosts Have a Heaven [Prime Numbers]
9. Joy Orbison – Hyph Mngo [Hotflush]
10. Animal Collective – *Merriweather Post Pavilion* [Domino]
11. Leron Carson – *Red Lightbulb Theory '87 - '88* [Sound Signature]
12. Raekwon – *Only Built 4 Cuban Linx 2* [H2o]
13. Darkstar – Aidy's Girl's A Computer [Hyperdub]
14. Zomby – Digital Flora [Brainmath]
15. Thriller – Swarm / Hubble [Thriller]
16. Peter Broderick – *Float* [Type]
17. Rick Wilhite – *The Godson EP* [Rush Hour]
18. The xx – *The xx* [XL]
19. Rustie – Bad Science [Wireblock]
20. Cloaks – *Versus Grain* [3by3]

Compiled by Actress (Werk Discs), London, UK.



Latest FACT mixes



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Latest Track Reviews



FALTY DL

1. Mira Calix & Oliver Coates – In A Beautiful Place Out In The Country (Original Boards of Canada) [Warp]
2. MSTRKFT – Heartbreaker (Brackles Remix) [White]
3. FaltyDL – Human Meadow (Luke Vibert Remix) [Planet Mu]
4. Floating Points – Esthian III [Planet Mu]
5. Dorian Concept – Trilingual Dance Sexperience [Affine]
6. Actress – Ivy May Gilpin [Werk]
7. Rudi Zygaldó – Live in the Mix Mary Anne Hobbs (BBC Radio 1 10-12-09)
8. Boards of Canada – Kaini Industries (Bibio Remix) [Warp]
9. Sweat X – I'm That Alley (Mike Slott Remix) [Citinitie]
10. Falty DL – Hip Love (Jamie XX Remix) [forthcoming Ramp]

Compiled by Falty DL, New York, US.

SILK FLOWERS

1. City Center – Young Diamond [from *City Center* LP, Type]

The guitar is like car crashes outside your window and the drums are your neighbors fighting and the seconds keep ticking on.

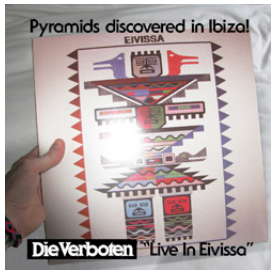
2. Tarek Atoui – Un-drum/Strategies of Surviving Noise [performance, 2009]

The songs lurk in the static-y emotional wash of Fennesz, but are rooted by a blunt percussive force that verges on Muslingauze. Although the performance is a story of endurance, watching it is a completely beautiful experience.

3. Ice Age – "Collapse" from *Ice Age 7* [Escho]

Teenagers with knives! Completely desperate and tightly wound, every element in precisely the right spot, from the stuttering, rumbling drum fills to the glass shard guitar notes. I think

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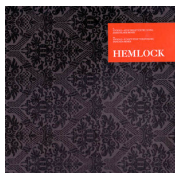


Recommended Albums

[Comanechi: Crime of Love](#)



the oldest member of this band is 18, and I think they play like they're not going to make it past 20.



4. Former Ghosts – 'Dreams' from *Fleurs* LP [Upset The Rhythm]
Freddy's programming on this record, 'Dreams' in particular, is creative with a franticness that reminds me of the flailing of someone trying desperately not to drown.

5. Led Er Est – CC Exit [from *Dust on Common* LP, Wierd]

They build a tension so absolute that it felt like the ceiling was sinking. By the time Sam's guitar started to ring out it didn't even seem like people were breathing. Their icy, aggressive, drum-machine driven songs have been a strong favorite for the last year, but the atmospheric surprise of "CC Exit" opens up a whole new side of loving this band.

6. Dog Faced Hermans – 'Hear the Dogs' from *Hum of Life* LP Reissue [Mississippi]

This is my favorite Dog Faced Hermans LP and I'm really grateful for this reissue. The guitar is so brittle and metallic it's hard to recognize, and the bass/drum mindmeld is as unshakable as concrete.

7. Animal Collective – 'On a Highway' [from *Fall Be Kind* EP, Domino]

The drumming on this song breaks my mind.

8. Grouper – 'Pulse' [from various live shows, 2009]

'Pulse' is one of the newest Grouper songs; we saw Grouper play live three times this year in dramatically different places. Although I think people will still tend to see dense cobwebs of reverb and enigmatic shrouds across these new songs, with "Pulse", Grouper really is letting you into her life.

9. Ducktails – Spring [from *Landscapes* LP, Olde English Spelling Bee]

It's hard to choose between this LP and the debut, but Matt sings more on this one and I'm all for that. It makes me feel more like I'm being let in on someone's secret basement life and that's part of what I like about Ducktails. The other, bigger of what I like about Ducktails is songs so pretty and glowing you stop feeling everything. "Spring" does that really well.

10. The Units – 'High Pressure Days' [from *The Early Years of the Units* CD, Community Library]

The Units were a synth band from San Francisco circa 1980. They were of particular inspiration to me when I moved to Portland as a teenager and really liked the idea of synth music but couldn't shake the idea that it was a purely European achievement. Their beautifully sharp notes are the most effective in the fast-paced lament of "High Pressure Days". "Change phone numbers/wither away" is an immensely brutal line, one that should make the record feel like a time capsule but the breathless energy of the song locks it in perfectly with anything happening today.

Compiled by *Silk Flowers, New York, US.*

PHILIP SHERBURNE

1. Sunn O))) – *Monoliths & Dimensions* [Southern Lord]
2. The xx – *The xx* [Young Turks]
3. Emeralds – *What Happened* [No Fun]
4. Black to Comm – *Alphabet 1968* [Type]
5. Benzo – *The Dust/The Tapes: Mania Remixes* [Laton/Sex Tags Mania]
6. Demdike Stare – *Symbiosis* [Modern Love]
7. Kevin Drumm – *Imperial Horizon* [Hospital Productions]
8. Lukid – *Foma* [Werk]
9. Monolake – *Silence* [ML/I]
10. September Collective – *Always Breathing Monster* [Mosz]
11. Beak> – *Recordings* [Invada]
12. Ben Frost – *By the Throat* [Bedroom Community]
13. Pepe Bradock – *Confite de Bits* [K7]
14. Atom TM – *Liedgut* [Raster Noton]
15. Moritz von Oswald Trio – *Vertical Ascent* [Honest Jon's]
16. Jon Hassel – *Last Night the Moon Came Dropping Its Clothes in the Street* [ECM]
17. Fever Ray – *Fever Ray* [Rabid]
18. Mocky – *Saskamodie* [Crammed]
19. DJ Sprinkles – *Midtown 120 Blues* [Mule]
20. Grizzly Bear – *Veckatimest* [Warp]

Compiled by *Philip Sherburne, Berlin, Germany.*

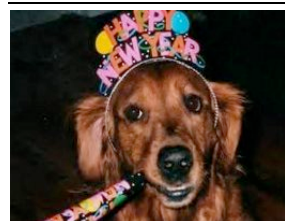


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