



The best music of 2009: The Ballots

13. Grant Hart, *Hot Wax* (2)

What was P.O.S. apologizing for? Grant Hart took a full *decade* to make a new album after 1999's *Good News For Modern Man*. The former Hüsker Dü drummer may be operating on his own unhurried timeline these days, but *Hot Wax* is a welcome reminder that there was another great songwriter in that iconic punk trio besides Bob Mould. Echoing the flight of Icarus alluded to in the album title, the best songs here allow Hart's imagination to take whimsical flight—and also express his solidarity with the eccentrics of the world, as on “Barbara,” a story about a mischievous imaginary friend that's reminiscent of the happily kooky woman Hart profiled in Hüsker's “Books About UFOs.”

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