

Grant Hart



Hot Wax

Fifth post-Hüsker Dü LP by Minnesota renaissance man.

As a member of such diverse organisations as The Duchamp Society and the Studebaker Drivers Club Of North America, Grant Hart clearly has interests beyond music. But as it's 10 years since the former Hüsker Dü songwriting drummer's last album, and at least three since Hart spoke of recording with Arcade Fire producer Howard Bilerman, we might have expected something more monumental than just nine tracks and 35 minutes of mostly rudimentary garage pop. Nonetheless, *Hot Wax* enjoys abundant reserves of Hart's trademark melodic candour and quixotic charm. Fittingly for a man whose career defines 'mercurial', the title and cover imagery invoke the Icarus myth. Charles Hollis Jones pays tribute to the designer of Tennessee Williams' writing chair; opener You're The Reflection Of The Moon On The Water combines Buddhist homilies, rollicking garage organ groove and Hart's declamatory tenor to righteous effect; while the chamber orchestral vignette Barbara may be the prettiest song in Hart's canon.

Keith Cameron