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**HART, GRANT - Hot Wax** {*MVD/ Condor*}

The ex-HUSKER DU legend - he with the golden tonsils - turns in what is apparently his sixth post-DU album. It's the first I've heard since the excellent NOVA MOB album 'Last Days Of Pompeii' from '91 and I think it is fair to say it is his most understated release so far. The songs see HART wallowing in a 60s/ early 70s vibe. He sets his stall out early with opener 'You're The Reflection Of The Moon In The Water' that's an earthy, bluesy rocker evoking THE DOORS while elsewhere THE KINKS appear to influence a number of the quirky, almost whimsical Pop tracks ('Barbara' in particular). Highlights include the more NOVA MOB-ish 'Narcissus Narcissus' and apologetic closer 'My Regrets', while the pristine pop of 'California Zephyr' would do BIG STAR proud. This is not an album with instant appeal, especially if your knowledge of HART is only via 'New Day Rising'. Successive plays do display HART's songwriting talents and unlocks treasures in the arrangements that are not apparent on a single listen. Following BOB MOULD's solo success, it's great to see the pop tones of HART continuing the other side of the HUSKER legacy. (12.01.10)