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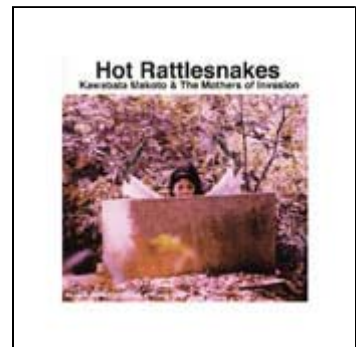
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KAWABATA MAKOTO & THE MOTHERS OF INVASION *Hot Rattlesnakes* CD

Some might argue that the world needs another Kawabata Makoto side project like it needs another hole in the ozone layer, but I'm not among those naysayers, especially when the Acid Mothers Temple guitar hero drops the occasional psych masterpiece like this one.

Hot Rattlesnakes is a reissue of a long out of print LP, and features Kawabata in trio mode, joined by Acid Mothers bassist Tsuyama Atsushi and drummer Ichiraku Yoshimitsu. The three long tracks on *Hot Rattlesnakes* all touch on various time-tested Kawabata guises, and as such, doubles as a primer for what the man is capable of. Opener, "Theme of Hot Rattlesnakes" places a long distortion-soaked power solo from Kawabata front and center, with spoken and sampled snippets of vocal adding some unusual elements to the proceedings. The ten-minute "Fripien Flipped Over Nifty Their King of Frippery" pays homage to the King Crimson guitarist in more ways than just in its title, as the shimmering arpeggio drone recalls Fripp's adventurous masterpiece *Let The Power Fall*. The best is saved for last, though, as "French Sweet Sugar House" features loping guitar lines hazier and stonier than the usual Acid Mothers freak-out fare of late, sounding more like a lost outsider classic than another High Rise knockoff. [Prophas]

-James Jackson Toth



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