

The result is absolutely one of the funniest, most decadent Burroughs releases to date. Enjoy, Mugwump. (ernestjennings.com)

controlled bleeding

LARVA LUMPS AND BABY BUMPS (DOUBLE CD)
(ARTOFFACT)

Former *BT* contributor **PAUL LEMOS** has never been one to sit still. Over 38 years, he has released nearly 40 albums spanning various genres, suffered the deaths of his closest bandmates and reconfigured *Controlled Bleeding* into what is arguably one of its strongest lineups. *Larva* continues in the punk prog style he resurrected late last decade, with an emphasis on the prog element of concept; i.e., the five-part story of a serial killer's night out told as driving, spaced-out instrumentals, something between *The Cows and Boredoms*, atmospheric lounge, and nightmarish psychedelic noise—which gets inside the character's mind. Additionally, a second disc documents a live session recorded by the legendary **MARTIN BISI** in 2012, where Lemos' dexterous fingers simultaneously recall Robert Fripp, Richard Pinhas, and John McLaughlin over several instrumentals. Wow. (artoffact.com)

cowtown

PARANORMAL ROMANCE
(HHBTM)

Leeds trio *Cowtown* evoke SST Records

and '90s southern noise rock on a powerful fourth LP that explodes with a ferocity rarely heard nowadays. After a 30-second Minute-men-like instrumental, "Clock In," pairs **THE DELTA 72's** revved-up, reverbed guitar with early **DEVO** spudrock; "Castleman," "Tweak," and "Motivational Speaker" throw **SERVOTRON**, **BRAINAC** and Touch & Go-era **MAN OR ASTROMAN?** into a blender with the top off, just to see what happens; the half-minute "Captain Planet" sounds like **RICHARD HELL'S VOIDOIDS** on a Heisenberg blue meth bender... and that's just the first half! The damn thing never lets up until the closing krautrock drive of "Emojicore," at which point you'll play *PR* again, because it's that good. *Cowtown* have existed for 12 years, but if you're finding them now, it's like hitting record stores with Christmas money. Buy it now—you can thank me later. (hhtbtm.com)

culture shock

ATTENTION SPAN
(ALTERNATIVE TENTACLES)


Between the 1985 demise of hardcore anarcho UK punks **THE SUBHUMANS** and the 1990 formation of ska punk heroes **CITIZEN FISH**, vocalist **DICK LUCAS** formed what could arguably be his most interesting band, *Culture Shock*, whose three albums blended punk and ska elements with deep, heavy dub. Unfortunately, they disbanded too quickly and guitarist **NIGE** sadly passed away in

1993. The ever-energetic *Lucas*, inspired by the release of the *Everything* box set (a comprehensive *Culture Shock* collection), as well as the reformed *Subhumans*, reunited with original drummer **BILL** and bassist **JASPER** (also of *CF*) for a new album. *CF* trumpeter Alex now handles the guitar, respectfully evoking *Nige's* spacey sound, while *Lucas* continues delivering his brilliantly insightful Bob-Dylan-via-Mick-Farren lyrics. Well done, sirs. Cheers! (alternativetentacles.com)

curved air

THE CURVED AIR RARITIES SERIES VOLUME 1: TAPESTRY OF PROPOSITIONS
(CURVED AIR)

In 2008, highly underrated London '70s group *Curved Air* reunited once again, and, after several lineup changes, they seem to have settled on a solid combination. Vocalist **SONJA KRISTINA** remains in front, her voice deeper, but no less powerful. **FLORIAN PILKINGTON-MIKSA** still mans the drums with '72-'73 guitarist **KIRBY GREGORY** rejoining. Newcomers **CHRIS HARRIS**, **ROBERT NORTON**, and **PAUL SAX** round out the band on bass, keyboards, and violin, respectively. *Tapestry*, however, is not a new album. Instead, they've edited together 15 live improvisations from the song "Propositions" (off their first, best album, 1970's *Air Conditioning*) into one extended piece. Rather than an ex-



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