

24 Albums We Really Liked in 2015

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Posted by Nada Staff January 10th, 2016 1 Comment »

Forty-four contributors weighed in on this, our list of favorite albums of 2015, offering up 108 nominees. Here are the twenty-four that topped the list.

24. Father John Misty – *I Love You, Honeybear*



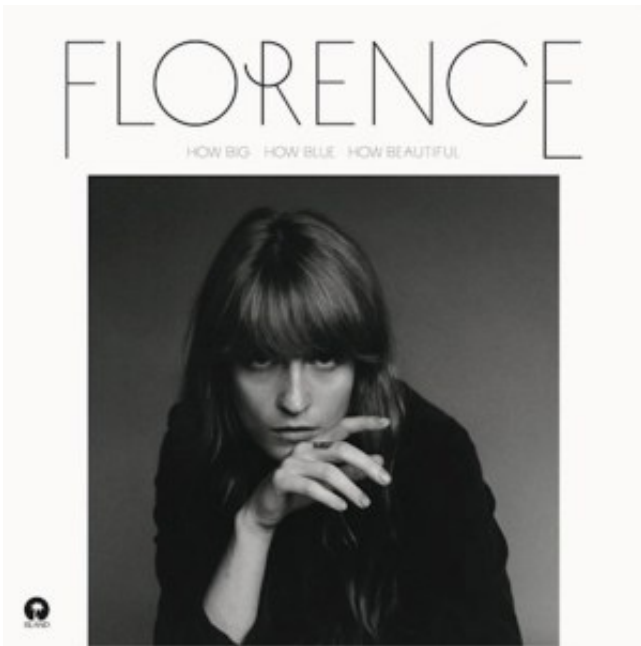
23. Leon Bridges – *Coming Home*



22. Wind Burial – *We Used to be Hunters*



21. Florence and the Machine – *How Big How Blue How Beautiful*



20. Kehlani – *You Should Be Here*



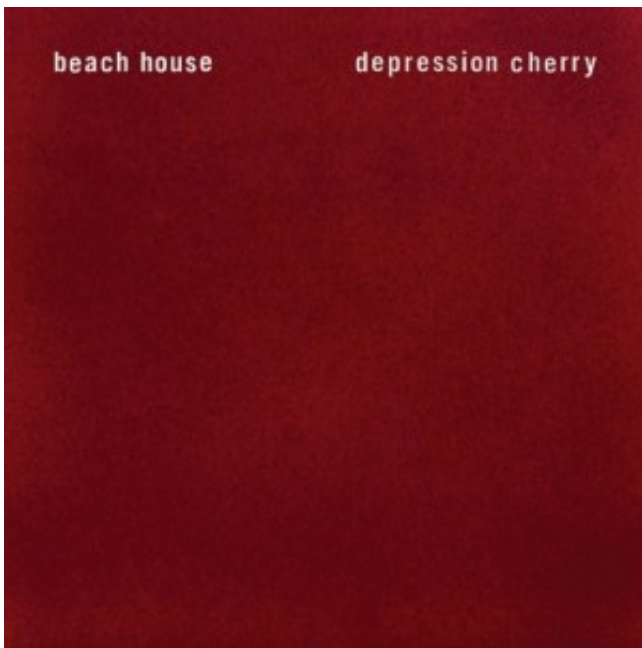
19. Nathaniel Rateliff and the Night Sweats – *Nathaniel Rateliff and the Night Sweats*



18. Lord Huron – *Strange Trails*



17. Beach House – *Depression Cherry*



16. Run the Jewels – *Meow the Jewels*



15. Waxahatchee – *Ivy Trip*

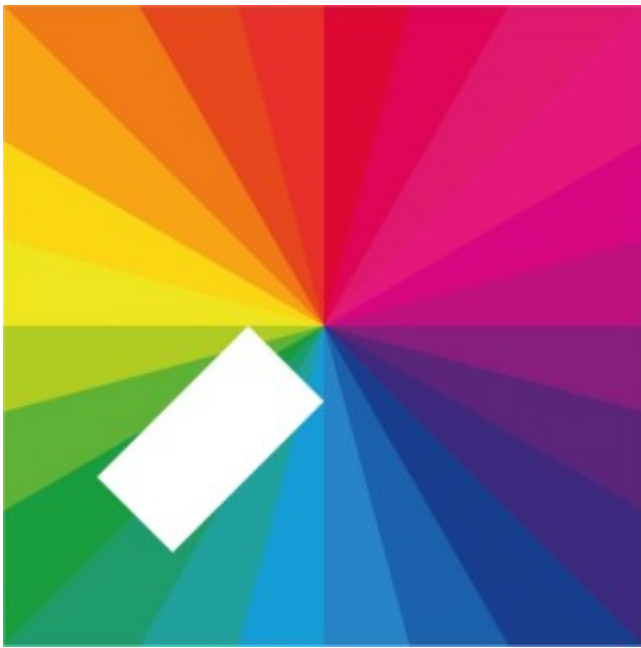
waxahatchee
ivy tripp



14. Alabama Shakes – *Sound and Color*



13. Jamie xx – *In Colour*



12. Natalie Prass – *Natalie Prass*



11. Le Butcherettes – *A Raw Youth*



Le Butcherettes' music serves as great reminder that rock and roll used to be about rage and angst. It's as if the band is saying "Come out of your dreamy pop, alternative, Indie bubble gum haze! The world is fucked up!" The band released a *A Raw Youth* in 2015 and sealed the deal for frontwoman Teri "Gender" Bender as one of the most original artists of her generation. She's a remarkable musician and vocalist with a clear idea of how to her express her feelings, whether she's raging against the injustices of the current era or demonstrated a newly melodic approach, like on album openers "Shave the Pride" and "Mallely." Bender and her band mates also pay a lot of attention to detail, creating the right atmosphere for each song by playing a few notes on the synth or weaving in unexpected noises to add texture. *A Raw Youth* is a great record. – Cee Cee Hill

10. Fetty Wap – *Fetty Wap*



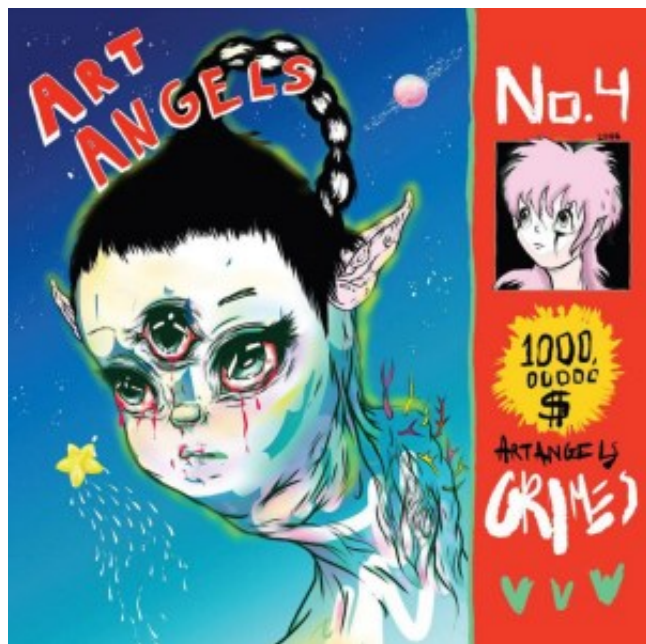
Fetty Wap needs to be commended for writing a master thesis in trap-pop laced with genuine romance and brevity utilizing less words than the average set of refrigerator magnet poetry. The New Jersey-based rapper, thought to be a one-hit wonder thanks to the undeniable song of the summer “Trap Queen,” churned out hit after hit like dang Billy Shakespeare scribbled out sonnets. Just when his reign seemed to be coming to a halt – BAM – “My Way” was remixed with Drake and – CRACK – “Juug” was proven to be his Mona Lisa. – Cameron Deuel

9. Chvrches – *Every Open Eye*



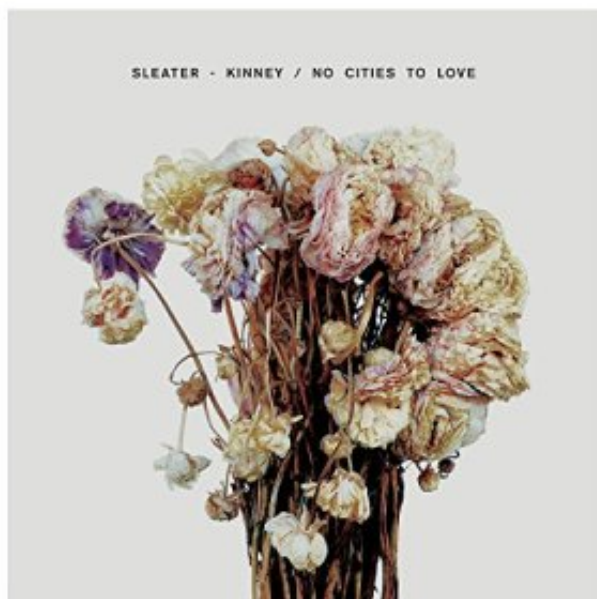
Every Open Eye is the emotional equivalent of skip-dancing down a sidewalk at night and suddenly tripping, skinning your knees open on the cement, then laughing uproariously and wishing someone caught it on tape. I know because I literally did that one evening while listening to “Clearest Blue” on headphones. If you need tunes to help you dance your way through a dumb breakup, choose this LP. – AJ Dent

8. Grimes – *Art Angels*



When *Visions* came out, a lot of people dismissed Grimes as a passing fad. But that's just because it's so easy to dismiss a weird little waif who looks too pretty to be smart. People usually credit the producer or guest artists when pretty girls make good electronic music. In actual fact, Grimes is smart, and her sound is instantly recognizable. With *Art Angels* she figured out all she needed to do to make sure she got the credit for her own work was to do absolutely everything all by herself. And she did it wonderfully. – Gemma Alexander

7. Sleater-Kinney – *No Cities to Love*



The guitars and the way Carrie Brownstein and Corin Tucker project their voices. The eighth album from Olympia's Sleater-Kinney couldn't be better. That the band was on hiatus for a number of years doesn't seem to matter. This isn't a reunion record

as much as a continuation of their previous work. And we want more of it. – Justin Vela

6. Kendrick Lamar – *To Pimp A Butterfly*



5. Sleaford Mods – *Key Markets*



Sleaford mods vocalist/lyricist Jason Williamson is well known for spitting a mix of hotly articulated rage, cynical asides, and the odd right-down-the-middle punchline (“by Victoria’s not very good secret – they’re knickers, mate.”) but on *Key Markets* he sings a bit more. Tracks like the excellent “No Ones Bothered” and the less excellent “Tarantula Deadly Cargo” fall entirely on the sing side of Williamson’s talk/sing approach. The beat’s from Andrew Fearn, the other half of the duo, which self describes their sound as “electronic munt minimalist punk-hop rants for the working class,” are a bit more polished – still minimalist, but slight additions, such as the drop-out after the hook on “The Blob” or keyboard backings on “Face to Faces.” These fresh nuances are

slight, but demonstrate a handle on what makes music like this work. – Graham Isaac

4. Deerhunter – *Fading Frontier*



Bradford Cox and company return with their most polished, accomplished record to date. There's still trace elements of the weird, but not enough to dismiss the group's ambitions for commercial success. – Ben Allen

3. Wimps – *Suitcase*



Wimps' *Suitcase* is not the kind of thing I listen to very often these days. It's more the kind of thing I would have loved when I was 16. But there's just something so catchy, infectious, fun, and snarky about these songs. It brings me back, in a good way, but simultaneously keeps things fresh and interesting enough that I can also appreciate it as a full-fledged adult. It's fun dumb punk

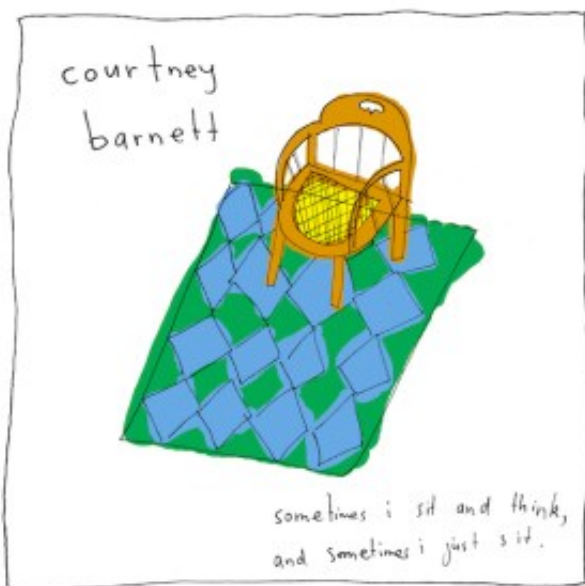
for the thinking man/woman. – Aaron Semer

2. Built to Spill – *Untethered Moon*



Built to Spill has always been at their best when exploring the relationship between the listener and rock music. On *Untethered Moon*, BTS's spectacular return to form, they mine this territory again on "All Our Songs," to great effect. *Untethered Moon* is BTS's best record since 2001, with no reggae-tinged wankfests and few forgettable tracks. BTS is energized by a new rhythm section, and singer/guitar god Doug March's songwriting has been reinvigorated. – Adam Lawrence

1. Courtney Barnett – *Sometimes I Sit and Think and Sometimes I Sit*



Courtney Barnett deals in slice of life tunes seemingly written in the moment on her stateside full-length debut, *Sometimes I Sit*

and *Think and Sometimes I Just Sit*, one of the most eminently listenable albums of the year. Barnett writes about buying a house with her wife, blowing off work, and struggling with insomnia, all with a deftness of verbal wit and dry humor. It's easy to picture the heroes and villains at work, the houses they're thinking of buying in sketchy neighborhoods, the party that nobody cares if you attend. – Adam Lawrence

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January 11, 2016 at 9:27 am
Also receiving votes:

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- Potty Mouth – Potty Mouth EP
- Purity Ring – Another Eternity
- Joey Bada\$\$ – B.DA.\$\$
- Melanie Martinez – Crybaby
- Hop Along – Painted Shut
- Rae Sremmurd – Sremmlife
- Totally Mild – Down Time
- Natalia Lafourcade – Hasta la Raiz
- Kadhja Bonet – The Visitor
- My Morning Jacket – The Waterfall
- Kid Wave – Wonderlust
- Jason Isbell – Something More than Free
- Best Coast – California Nights

D'Angelo/The Vanguard – Black Messiah RCA
The Mountain Goats – Beat The Champ
Daniel Knox – Daniel Knox
Palehound – Dry Food
Miguel – Wildheart
Vince Staples – Summertime '
Fernando – Leave The Radio On
Idlewild – Everything Ever Written
David Ramirez – Fables
Langhorne Slim – The Spirit Moves
Rhett Miller –The Traveler
Franz Ferdinand/Sparks – FFS Domino
Terence Blanchard feat. E-Collective: Breath Blue Note
Drengé – Undertow
Foals – What Went Down
Industrial Revelation – Liberation and the Kingdom of Nri self-released
Soko – My Dreams Dictate My Reality Because Music
The Staves – If I Was Atlantic
Ghostface Killah/BadBadNotGood – Sour Soul Lex
Oddissee “The Good Fight”
Pinact “Stand Still and Rot”
White Manna “Pan”
Kurt Cobain “Montage of Heck: The Home Recordings”
Howlin Rain “Mansion Songs”
Ultimate Painting “Ultimate Painting”
Diane Coffee – Everybody's a Good Dog Western Vinyl
The Front Bottoms: Back on Top Fueled By Ramen
Various: A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night Soundtrack Death Waltz
Jed Appleton “The Other Side of Home”
The Spider Ferns – Soon Enough
Vacationeer – Glances
Eastern Souvenirs – [self titled]
Nightmare Fortress – The Wanting
Briana Marela – Surrender
Admiral Fallow “Tiny Rewards”
Tame Impala – Currents
The Foghorns – The Sun's Gotta Shine... SEA
Low Hums – Adventuring in the Near and Far EP SEA
Willy Tea Taylor – Knuckleball Prime
Jenny Don't and the Spurs – self titled PDX
Cry Baby by Melanie Martinez
Badlands by Hasley
Battles – La Di Da Di

Sumac – The Deal
Speedy Ortiz – Foil Deer
Industrial Revelation – Liberation and the Kingdom of Nri
Faith No More – Sol Invictus
Pusha T – King Push – Darkest Before Dawn: The Prelude
Above & Beyond – We Are All We Need
JLin – Dark Energy
The Dead Weather – Dodge and Burn
DCTV – Uptime!
Kamasi Washington’s The Epic
Tess Parks and Anton Newcombe – I Declare Nothing
Circuit Des Yeux – In Plain Speech
Godspeed You! Black Emperor – Asunder, Sweet and Other Distress
Grace Love And The True Loves – Grace Love & The True Loves
Joanna Newsom – Divers
Of Monsters and Men Beneath the Skin
Amorphis Under the Red Sun
Lockerbie Kafari
Kontinuum Kyrr
Death Grips, The Powers That B
Lizzy Mercier Descloux, Press Color reissue
Made In Heights, Without My Enemy What Would I Do
Country Funk II couldn’t stop playing it
Sweet Madness, Made In Spokane – , Volume Two
Nicole Willis & the Soul Investigators, Happiness In Every Style
Ahomefule J. Oluo – The Honorable Chief
Albert Hammond Jr. – Momentary Masters
Girlpool – Before the World Was Big
Sweatshop Boys – Always Polite, Never Happy EP
Woods of Desolation – As the Stars
Gloss – Demo EP
Bell Witch – Four Phantoms
Laura Stevenson – Cocksure
Viet Cong – Viet Cong
Perpetual Motion People – Ezra Furman
Baton Rouge – Fauna Shade
Show Us Your Mind – Summer Cannibals
Moonlight – Hanni El Khatib
Close Knuckled Jaw – The Grizzled Mighty
Gone By The Dawn – Shannon and the Clams
Childbirth – Women’s Rights
Flavr Blue – Love Notes
Kurt Vile – b’lieve i’m goin down

Major Lazer – Peace Is the Mission
Auteur Ve Nu – Workd War pt.
Allen Stone – Radius
James Bay – Chaos and The Calm
Hiatus Kiyote – choose your Weapon
Lo There Do I See My Brother – Northern Shore
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