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>>Record Reviews

April 2005

Maximo Park

A Certain Trigger
Warp Records

This is one of the bands that blew through town recently. They played SXSW this year. They were part of a new British Invasion that included Bloc Party, Kaiser Chiefs, Futureheads and others. Whereas those bands seemed like a mishmash of Gang of Four and Blur, Maximo Park didn't really fit in. They were a little smarter. They were a little like Pulp, when they got pulled into the Britpop wars. Weird that they are on Warp Records, home of Autechre and Plaid. Singer Paul Smith writes about common things in England. It is all about growing up in a shit country like Britain. It's a love/ hate relationship. "Apply Some Pressure" and "Graffiti" are some good songs. Most of the songs go beyond the usual "Britain is dull" mentality of Britpop. Maximo Park have more imagination and ambition. Maximo Park doesn't really sound like too many other bands. They are probably the most original band of the bunch. They combine rock with electronic sounds in a unique way. This is the band we may be talking about when all the dust clears.

Foetus

Love
Birdman Records

Once someone said "All You Need Is Love." I am not so sure that they were talking about this album, but perhaps. The records of Jim Thirwell (aka Foetus) have recently incorporated music soundtracks and jazz music. This album begins where the others left off. "Not Adam" has all the intensity of a great Foetus. There is a lot of drama and musical strings. In "Mon Agonie Douce" he sings in French for the first time in a while. "Blessed Evening" reminds me of the music in Dario Argento films. This songs has a great video with floating heads, made by Karen O. (of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs). Most of this album seems intimate and introvert. Some of the songs are not as heavy as songs in the past. There are none of those heavy dramatic statements. Most of the emotion is reeled in. This album sounds like a mystery that is slowly being revealed and unrevealed. Foetus has created the artwork for this mystery. Where is the love? Love is the answer in a universe without love.