

PRESS RELEASE

This Heat Founder Charles Hayward Forms New Band & Releases Debut LP

ARTIST: Abstract Concrete
ALBUM: Abstract Concrete
FORMATS: Vinyl, CD, Digital
LABEL: state51 conspiracy
DATE: 8th November

The co-founder of This Heat and Camberwell Now, Charles Hayward, recently entered his eighth decade, but instead of slowing down, he's actually stepping the pace up dramatically. After a sensational string of gigs in the UK and the US as part of This Is Not This Heat, a newly revitalised and inspired Charles, formed the band Abstract Concrete in 2019 and after a series of low key but jaw-dropping gigs and festival appearances, they are now ready to release their self-titled debut album on state51 Conspiracy.

The band features Agathe Max (Mésange, UKAEA) on viola, Otto Willberg (Yes Indeed, Historically Fucked) on bass, Roberto Sassi (Snorkel, Cardosanto) on guitar, Yoni Silver (Hyperion Ensemble, Steve Noble) on keyboards and, of course, Charles himself on drums and vocals. And perhaps the last thing anyone will be expecting is that one of the UK's most revered experimental musicians and improvisers, is now responsible for one of the most persuasive and hook laden avant pop albums of the year standing on a continuum with such melodic art school innovators as The Kinks, Brian Eno, Robert Wyatt and Penguin Cafe Orchestra, while nodding to a childhood spent listening to folk and pop, and his own experimental post punk past.

Lead digital single 'This Echo', complete with video, is released on 6th September. It mixes sweet chamber pop hooks with dubwise bass and plaintive Balearic guitar licks, and has an unusual origin story. When on holiday as a boy in the Alps, Charles heard the monumental echo of his own voice bouncing back to him across miles from Mont Blanc. Luckily when he was a teenager he found out what an echo box was as he had spent several years fixating on how to get his drum kit up a mountain to recreate this sound.

This is followed on 5th October with another digital single with video, 'Ventriloquist/Dummy', a slowly swelling blend of folk and jazz-informed post punk and pop, that ratchets up the tension exquisitely against lyrical observations about the state of politics in 2023.

For more information on Abstract Concrete plus the long and eventful history of Charles Hayward a full biography and Track By Track (with commentary by Charles) are attached to this email as an EPK or are available online [LINK TO WEBPAGE] here.

Any further queries about review streams/DLs, live reviews, premieres and potential interviews, please contact Dan McCormick: dan@braceyourselfpr.com