This album is some high quality engineering and production done by one of the smartest new musicians out there. We’ve all been waiting for more from Grimes since Visions blew us away with its dark ambience and dreamy light vocals, and Art Angels did not disappoint. It diverges from her typical sound that dates back all the way to Haflaxa (2010) and presents a distinctly pop-y vibe. One of the songs, Kill v. Maim, describes the album quite well with its chorus “behave aggressive!” as the album is powerful, fast, glamorous and in your face. Scream, for example, is a song featuring Taiwanese rapper Aristophanes spitting what I assume to be amazing verses while Grimes screams in the background like her heart is going to explode. In the months leading up to its release, Grimes revealed that she had learned to play the guitar for this album, which is something new, and the addition of the instrument as well as the refined melodies, clear vocals and polished beats are part of what set this album apart from Grimes’s previous albums. By no means do I intend to say that this album finds its worth solely from the artist name—Art Angels is a fantastic collection of aggressive edgy pop songs with diverse influences and deep, thought-provoking lyrics. Some of the lyrics allude to her explosive fame and success while others refer to losing friends to drugs. All the songs are very well produced however, and borrow from such various influences like 80s Bollywood to 90s house. Though I’m super biased, I think this album is amazing and you should give it a well-deserved listen!

Sounds Like:
Purity Ring
Sounds Like:
Phantogram
Sounds Like:
Twin Shadow

Recommended Tracks:
Kill v. Maim—this song is an power anthem. Get out there and behave aggressive!
Belly of the Beat—super amazing beat and chorus. Possibly best chorus of the album??

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Date Reviewed:
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- Alt [1]
- electronica [2]
- nu-metal [3]
- Pop [4]
- [5]