



Abstract Culture

by Wendle Holiday

"Punk Rock Sucks"

I am getting so tired of hearing that. It comes from pure ignorance and inner-breeding. The plus about using labels is that people can refer to things and others will know what they are talking about...sometimes. But then there's the example of abstract art or surrealist films. Things can't be seen as they are and be left alone. People will see an odd object or image and say, "Oh, that looks like it sorta' could be a tomatoe" and then forget about it. It's now labeled, they think they understand it and they don't need to think about it anymore. Why can't people say this is this, it's not like anything else, just what it is. The same thing applies to people also. (and I know quite a few examples). But you see, if things can't be labeled then people get confused and can't function by their own means. No brains. Sometimes labels are very viable and necessary but most of the time they belong to ignorance and misuse.

Let's get back to Punk Rock. Punk is dead, at least that's what I've been hearing. Let's use another label, New Wave. I hate that. How about... New Music! Yeah, I like that, sounds better, more viable. OK New Music! Now people tell us they think all this "punk rock" and new wave sucks. I wonder. Have they pulled their head out of their hole lately and looked around. I mean looked around really well. The world, at least from my perspective, has been extremely influenced by the New Music and the art and fashion it brought forward. Someone at work said to me the other day "Is this Hall and Oates song new wave? It sounds like it could be, but it's not very good." I told her it wasn't new wave (or very good) and that they were using the "mechanics" of the New Music in their own work. Some of the people who knock the new music are right now listening to their rock n roll, disco, or pcP albums and not realizing that those groups are enlisting the use of new music mechanics on many of those songs. Album covers... I almost can't tell anymore. Years back I used to buy every album that had the "new wave" look and not have to worry about whether it was going to be good or not.

Now everyone in the music "biz" is using the new art. The press, who once thought the new use of jumbled type was ugly, are now using it in their advertisements and feature stories. Just now the fashions are starting to become noticeable in the marketplace. Did you know GQ (gentleman's quarterly—a high fashion mag for the preppy American man) recently ran an article on "what's the newest thing in new wave". Did you know Sears and Walgreens sell New Wave sunglasses? I could be wrong, they might be Italian sunglasses. Never know, Italy could be the next big thing. In just a couple of years (if we all live that long), New Wave will saturate the entire market and everyone will say, "Hey New Wave is great! -----Boy, am I sick..."