

AP's Favorite Albums of 2024

Listed in alpha order with some **special records** noted. Playlists below!

TIDAL Playlist

Spotify Playlist

Ana Lua Caiano / *Vou Ficar Neste Quadrado* / Glitterbeat

Ana Tijoux / *Vida* / Victoria Producciones

Angélica Garcia / *Gemelo* / Partisan

Ariana Grande / *eternal sunshine* / Republic

Arooj Aftab / *Night Reign* / Verve

Arushi Jain / *Delight* / Leaving Records

Bab L' Bluz / *Swaken* / Real World

Beyoncé / *Cowboy Carter* / Parkwood/Columbia

Blunt Chunks / *The Butterfly Myth* / Telephone Explosion

** Bolis Pupul / *Letter To Yu* / Because **

Following 2021's standout collaboration with Charlotte Adigéry, *Topical Dancer*, Bolis Pupul returns with his debut solo record. On *Letter To Yu*, dance floor bangers co-exist beautifully with ambient experimentations. He dedicates the album to his late mother, and uses it to explore his cultural heritage he grew up feeling distant towards. The tracks document the sad and confusing feelings that come with losing a parent, alongside the feelings of joy and excitement from these new self-discoveries. A beautiful record that showcases Bolis' innovative talents.

Caribou / *Honey* / Merge

Cassandra Jenkins / *My Light, My Destroyer* / Dead Oceans

claire rousay / *sentiment* / Thrill Jockey

** Dar Disku / *Dar Disku* / Soundway **

Dar Disku is the musical duo of Mazen Almaskati and Vish M. The childhood friends started DJing together in 2019, fusing their SWANA roots with electronic sounds. Their debut, self-titled record is the next step in their journey. It's a true celebration of their cultures as they seamlessly cross between Khaleeji disco, Algerian Raï, Turkish psych, Egyptian folk, and so much more with stellar features to top it off. The album is tons of fun and does not disappoint. Plus their record design is A+.

Dawn Richard & Spencer Zahn / *Quiet In A World Full of Noise* / Merge

Dehd / *Poetry* / Fat Possum

Dua Saleh / *I SHOULD CALL THEM* / Ghostly International

El Khat / *mute* / Glitterbeat

Elyanna / *WOLEDTO* / Salxco UAM

Erick The Architect / *I've Never Been Here Before* / IDOL

Erika De Casier / *Still* / 4AD

Farhot / *stealing from cats* / Kabul Fire

Finom / *Not God* / Joyful Noise

Friko / *Where we've been, Where we go from here* / ATO

Girl Ultra / *blush* / Big Dada

** Godspeed You! Black Emperor / "NO TITLE AS OF 13 FEBRUARY 2024 28.340 DEAD" / Constellation **

This record struck all kinds of chords for me and their live show was one of the most cathartic this year. The eight album from Montreal post-rock band comes in at just under an hour, but you can easily have it on repeat and hear something new every time. The record is loud and urgent and mournful, yet holds an underlying sense of hope. Something played when words aren't enough. As of December 29, 2024: at least 45,484 dead. Free Palestine.

** Habibi / *Dreamachine* / Kill Rock Stars **

Finding a new home on the Kill Rock Stars label, Habibi pivots and levels up their sound with their third full length. Known for their vintage Middle Eastern infused garage rock, *Dreamachine* moves more into the disco territory. Their tracks are indeed dreamy and upbeat with Rahill Jamilafard's vocals adding a mysterious and sultry element. Keeping their overall retro feel, the band adds distinctive basslines and shimmering instrumentations that make the project very cohesive. They're ready to dance into the early morning and they hope you are too.

Hippo Campus / *Flood* / Psychic Hotline

Jamie xx / *In Waves* / Young

Jlin / *Akoma* / Planet Mu

Kassie Krut / *Kassie Krut EP* / Fire Talk

Kelly Lee Owens / *Dreamstate* / dh2

Kit Sebastian / *New Internationale* / Brainfeeder

** Lia Kohl / *Normal Sounds* / Moon Glyph **

Lia Kohl will never cease to amaze me. The way she can take a simple, mundane everyday sound and turn it into a beautiful composition will never get old. On her new record she continues her series of albums using field and AM/FM recordings with her cello and synth arrangements. We hear her mimic and build around the buzzing of refrigerators, car turn signals, ice cream trucks, and other passive sounds. She invites us into these intricate worlds and asks us to just simply listen.

** Lip Critic / *Hex Dealer* / Partisan **

Buckle up. Lip Critic has entered the chat. The New York based band is here to melt minds, fusing hardcore, punk, dance, and the kitchen sink into their debut album. With two dudes on drums and two on electronics, they create a frenetic energy as they sing about the demise of our current society. They sprint through the 12 tracks, never letting up on their speed. It makes it hard to pin a genre on them and that's the point. A shot of adrenaline straight to the heart, the record is as exhilarating as it is refreshing.

Little Simz / *Drop 7* / Forever Living Originals

Louis Cole (with Metropole Orkest & Jules Buckley) / *nothing* / Brainfeeder

Maral / *Patience* (صبر) / PTP

Maria Chiara Argirò / *Closer* / Innovative Leisure

Mary Lattimore & Walt McClements / *Rain on the Road* / Thrill Jockey

MIZU / *Forest Scenes* / NNA Tapes

Mk.gee / *Two Star & the Dream Police* / R&R

Mustafa The Poet / *Dunya* / Jagjaguwar

Nala Sinephro / *Endlessness* / Warp

**** Nia Archives / *Silence Is Loud* / Island/Hijinx ****

Another record that hit hard this year. The British producer has been a big part of the jungle revival. Her debut brings the crisp, immediate and fast-paced beats to her pop leaning melodies. Her diaristic lyrics are emotional, acting as a way to reshape the genre and bring it into the current decade. It's an exciting record that brings confessional tracks to the dancefloor.

Nidia and Valentina / *Estradas* / Latency

**** Nilüfer Yanya / *My Method Actor* / Ninja Tune ****

I have to admit, *My Method Actor* was a grower for me. This album is subtle. And after two striking records, more specifically *PAINLESS*, my initial listen felt anticlimactic. Then I remembered that's what I love about Nilüfer in the first place. Her songwriting is soft, yet biting. Her guitars are fuzzy, yet sharp. It's a matured and confident sound - one where she's not proving anything to anyone. It's been so lovely to watch her grow into one of the most exciting and talented artists of our time.

Ravyn Lenae / *Bird's Eye* / Atlantic

Reyna Tropical / *Malegría* / Psychic Hotline

Rojin Sharafi / *O.O.Orifice* / PTP

Rogê / *Curyman II* / Diamond West

Rosali / *Bite Down* / Merge

SAOIRSE / *The Monogamous EP* / Peach Discs

Seafood Sam / *Standing On Giant Shoulders* / drink sum wtr

Skee Mask / *ISS010* / Ilian Tape

**** Tasha / *All This And So Much More* / Bayonet ****

Would my album of the year list be complete without the Tasha record? An easy "no." Unlike her previous albums, which were soft and introspective, her new album shows her brimming with confidence. She navigates personal growing pains with a sense of excitement, knowing she is closer to her true self. Big, fuzzy guitars and upbeat melodies surround her warm vocals. Her lyricism is strong as ever. It almost makes up for her moving to NYC.

Two Shell / *Two Shell* / Young

**** Various Artists / *TRANSA* / Red Hot ****

Wow. This record. If you spent any time with me in-person the last few months, you have 100% heard me talk about this project. If not, the tl;dr: *TRANSA* is a concept album comprised of over 40 tracks from over 100 artists honoring the lives+talents of trans and non-binary folks. Told across eight chapters, there are some pretty big names, but my personal favorites are songs from Rachika Nayar, Yaeji, L'Rain, and Cassandra Jenkins to name a few... I cry every time I do a full listen, always at different points in the album. It's as expansive as the living experience, and you'll just have to listen to it to see what I'm talking about.

Waxahatchee / *Tiger's Blood* / ANTI-

Yaya Bey / *Ten Fold* / Big Dada

Others

Bruno Berle / *No Reino Dos Afetos 2* / Psychic Hotline

Carlita / Sentimental / Ninja Tune

Fazerdaze / Soft Power / section1

Helado Negro / *Phasor* / 4AD

Laura Marling / *Patterns In Repeat* / Chrysalis/Partisan

Machinedrum / *3FOR82* / Ninja Tune

Peter Cat Recording Co. / *BETA* / Muddy Waters

Skee Mask / *Resort* / Illian Tape

Yunè Pinku / Scarlet Lamb / Method 808

Past Lists

Favorite Albums of 2023

Favorite Albums of 2022

Favorite Albums of 2021