



Carroll presents "Fern"

The first single from their third LP, out 2020 on Shattered Orb Records

Watch the music video



photo by Erin Pederson

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The first line of the song "Fern" by Philadelphia band Carroll provides an apt metaphor for the band's sound: "I'm a fern with the leaves curled up / in the light I extend and unravel." Over the course of two critically acclaimed LPs and an EP, Carroll continues to compose blossoms of psychedelic pop that unfurl and bloom as you listen.

"Fern" is the first single from the band's forthcoming third album (out 2020 on Shattered Orb Records). Recorded in the band's subterranean bunker in Philadelphia and at Berlin Studios in New Jersey, the band is taking their outrospective sonic palate to glistening new heights and some of the murkiest depths of their career.

After years on the road and stints opening for the likes of Dr. Dog, Whitney, and Jessica Pratt, the four members of Carroll are learning to stay in place. "I get used to it / ivy grows when I'm not watching," sings frontman Brian Hurlow on "Fern." The vividly colorful video by Karl Cooney reflects this sense of settled unsettling. A fruit bowl signifies *mise en place* but the band members' faces float on the surface of moving liquid, suggesting something more uncanny.

Underneath Hurlow's plaintive delivery swirl the dense psychedelic landscapes the band is known for. The propulsive, liquid bass lines of Charles McClung are a second narrator throughout the course of the song and Max Kulicke continues to create micro-climates and sonic storms with his atmospheric guitar. The single's tasteful and varied synthesizers seem to bubble up from beneath the understated beats of drummer Charlie Rudoy, an indication that the band is working on some of the most enveloping grooves of their career.

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