



# An Interview with Crawling with Tarts

Susan and Michael Derives = Crawling With Tarts: great people, interesting music. I like them.

*Let's basically go by names and then say what each of you do in Crawling With Tarts?*

S-OK my name is Suz and the things that I do is I help construct and do compositions in Crawling With Tarts. I help write the music and arranging and I also usually if I'm playing instruments I'll use natural elements. I'll try to bring in as much as I can. Since I'm a horticulturist I like to use things that are organic like bean shakers. I like using unconventional/non traditional instruments, things like sticks and stones and I'm a tapper. I'm kind of a percussionist. Would you say I'm a percussionist?

M-Umm whatever is needed.

*And what are you in the band?*

M-The same.

*The same?*

S-We're a couple.

M-Yeah I guess maybe to fill you in on, well I don't know. We've done everything from shows that look like rock concerts to go back to shows that look like small operatic pieces back to shows where we look like we have trombonists and violinists. So we end up playing everything.

S-It's hard to say we're just the guitarists. Cause each piece is so different. Variety really is more our thing.

M-We submit to the needs of the composition.

S-Exactly.

*OK so when did Crawling With Tarts start and why?*

S-Crawling With Tarts first started in 1981 when I first met Michael.

M-83.

S-Well first we met in 81 though.

M-No we didn't, we met in 83.

S-I like to think it's longer huh?

Ok we met in 1983 and we were making this little magazine and that's how it all started. Cause we were in this other band. This rock band.

*What was the name of the magazine?*

S-The name of the mag is Youths Go Camping and Michael and I were in this band called Youth Camp. And then we broke up the band, moved away and we went to Mexico for awhile and then we started Crawling With Tarts in Santa Cruz when we moved there. What year was that in?

M-That was still 83.

S-So that's how it started. Then we started making a mag that had a tape with it of our music and that was like the first release of ASP. From there we just started creating music and then we started our little ASP label. How many releases now? There are albums like 25?

M-Lots.

S-There's lots. There's lots of stuff out there.

*What are your influences?*

S-History, geology. What else do I really like? Film.

*What sort of films?*

S-Oh all sorts of different films. I mean everything from foreign films to American films except for film noire. I don't like that very much.

M-I like early Russian silent films right now especially Vziga

Vertov. One of the first electronic musicians. In fact he wanted to use turn tables and he did use them in 1930. Important fact.

*Any other side projects even though this takes up an immense amount of time I guess. Are there any side projects that you're working on? Anything musically writing...*

S-Michael is. Michael your writing a whole journal of some scientific thought aren't you?

M-Well actually music is one aspect of a lot of the things that we do. There also very strongly related. You know we work with visual stuff. We work with film and yeah I do have some scientific projects that are related to sound. Various things like that. I don't know if you want me to be specific?

*Well be as specific as you want to be.*

M-Ok well then I'll be that vague. Cause umm...I don't know. I think maybe like everybody...you have a lot of things that a person gets interested in. And our music in really reflective in the fact that we allow ourselves to explore all of our interests like for example if we got fascinated with entomology we'd do something about bugs or you know that doesn't mean just musically but in any discipline. Or we get interested in sociology.

*So you say if you get interested in something new you go in that direction.*

M-Yeah our music just happens to be one way that we can realize our ideas and so that's what you just happen to see this time. But I don't know what the word for it is but we just like to follow our ideas and realize them whenever we can and sometimes that's in writing, sometimes that's in some other particular kind of work.



*How do you feel about ghosts, UFO's, vampires and Elvis?*

S-Umm...let's see that would go under the topic of belief right?

*Paranatural, paranormal, whatever.*

S-I don't know. I watch a lot of things but I don't watch hype that much. Elvis reminds me of hype, superstardom, demi-god type stuff. UFO's...I've seen a UFO before. A sighting of one onetime. So I know there are

bigger things than we are, you know what I mean? There's no doubt in my mind that's why I think every time there's an earthquake, or something ultra fantastic its really exciting because it just shows that there are things bigger than men or women and that's really important to keep that in perspective. That's kind of the hard thing to deal with in

Hollywood and Elvis and all of this stuff is that people just build these people up to be these things, these icons, and that we're supposed to worship them and I've never been an idol worshipper. I've never had a favorite movie star. I've never like looked at people thinking, 'Oh god I think they're so neat'. I never was like that. I always think, if they think that's really neat then I'm going to go 100 degrees the opposite way and find something completely...the independancy came out of that. That started way back before high school. If the popular kids were over here doing this, I

was like if they're popular, I'm going to be doing something else. I always hated that. Cause that creates umm...even though I'm creating a form of discrimination against that. It creates individuality though. You just can't be a mass parasite thing. You know what I mean? I think that's a reason we do our own thing and just are self sufficient and a couple can be like that much

more than independent people. If you're a couple you can really bounce off each other and your in your own little micro world. That's how the little family is. They need nothing but themselves. And that's why we probably do our own music and out it ourselves because you get so tired of people making comments to you or telling you what you can and cannot do. And it's worth it to us just to have it the way we want it and the way we want our album cover to look and the way we want our music. We don't want to be made up into something we're not. That's really important to us to be really honest with what we do. And I mean that's what goes back to dressing and stuff like that. You know what I mean. Becoming something when you get up on stage or something I'm not quite sure I follow that sort of stuff. It doesn't seem very honest. You know the actress thing. And the stage even bothers me. That why I like sitting on the stage rather than standing on the stage because I think it's kind of weird when people have to look up at you. And that's why I don't really look at my audience and have a real repore and always look down because I don't like that, that iconal thing. That really bothers me. You know what I mean I don't like that. I want us to all be socially sick and even. I'm not into these like peer group things.

*What are your feeling towards politics and religion? I was talking about how you had mentioned reli-*

*gion a little bit and socialism and stuff like that and I was saying what are your politics well not really politics but what are your views on politics and religion?*

S-Oh I like lots of different religions. I like going to the Russian and Greek orthodox churches and seeing all the stuff. I really like that stuff a lot. I like the pagan god thing a lot. I like that you can grow food and that you

not like how your went or whatever happened I like the idea that there is belief. I just don't want belief to get out of perspective. Like humans are gods. I don't go for that you know what I mean? But I really like the idea of belief in other things. I like the belief in humans. I mean couples have to believe in each other to make it work. You know you have to have belief. I like all those different religions. I like Buddhism and I like all of them, but I don't like when they get segregated and say this is it, this is the one religion. I hate that sort of stuff. It's like our music. I like to collage them all together and take bits and pieces of the parts I like. Like I like the Greek and Russian orthodox for the ornate stuff and the little candles burning as you walk in and you know I like all that stuff that I don't understand and I create this whole other thing what I think it means you know? But right now I'm really into going into Catholic churches because I haven't done that for a long time and I've been



are really connected to nature. I really respect that. And I was coming down the stairs in Northbeach the other night with Michael's parents and there were three little Mexican women and they were carrying a candle and they were singing a shrine. They were singing to themselves about the Mary and everything and I think it's really beautiful. One thing I really like is the belief and that's why I said earlier I think it's really important it's

seeing really beautiful catholic churches and I want to go inside and see them and see how ornate they are. Because they're really weird when you think about it. It tells you a lot about popular culture and old culture and it fuses. I really like that. I like all those thing where you put the water on your forehead and the seashell and I like all that sort of stuff. Don't you?