

# Fotocrime

## Roll Call

Fotocrime is a solo entity, I write, perform, and produce the music. I credit myself in the records by my first initial, R., in an attempt to disconnect from personal identity and direct focus to Fotocrime.

### When did the band get started and what was the original intention of the band?

I spent all of 2016 alone in my garage studio writing music, finding a new voice, exploring sounds that were new for me. In early 2017, I entered a proper studio and recorded what would become my first EP, *Always Hell*, and first album, *Principle Of Pain*. In April 2017, Fotocrime made its live debut and I began touring, both solo and with other musicians joining me. The intention is always growth and exploration, to expand as a songwriter, to focus my loves and struggles and joys and confusions into music and lyrics. To escape.

### Tell us more about your name: how does it communicate the sound or vibe of the band?

I think Fotocrime as a word and moniker perfectly suits me and my music, but to deconstruct it would diminish its power.

### How would you describe your music to someone who has not yet checked you out?

I do my absolute best to not talk to people about my music, unless they specifically inquire. I find those conversations awkward and usually fruitless. To an average civilian, I say postpunk with electronic elements. They usually respond with glassy eyes and a tilted head like a perplexed puppy.

### What inspires you to create this style of music?

There are so many things, bits of influence and inspiration from music, film, literature, visual art... all the elements that percolate in your brain and latch on to your DNA. The songs are little cinematic scenes corresponding to the images in my head, from over-saturated American mid-century melodramas to the frigid, cracking concrete of cold war Europe. Sonically, I dream of a perfect connection and interplay of hollow-body guitar rockabilly crooners, raw and remedial drum machine backed synth, and a swirl of punk, postpunk, hardcore, and their various offshoots.

### What influences in fashion, literature and culture impact your creativity?

In literature I've been most impacted by Paul Bowles. I love his explorations into existential darkness and lost paths, plus the biting critique of white European and American privilege. I also particularly love the pulpy crime of Patricia Highsmith and Raymond Chandler. Much of my fashion inspiration comes from connections to film, either the personal or cinematic styles of Pier Paolo Pasolini, Alain Delon, Kenneth Anger, and many others. As a visual artist I'm greatly inspired by Clarence John Laughlin, John Heartfield, Basquiat, Raymond Pettibon, Barbara Kruger, Gee Vaucher.

### What other bands are inspiring you right now?

Lately I've been listening to a lot of Kim Gordon's *No Home Record*, FKA Twigs' *Magdalene*, Kristin Kontrol's *X-Communicate*, C.H.E.W.'s *In Due Time*, and Aon Brasi.

### How would you describe the current alternative music scene where you live?

I love my town and have family, friends, and a rich artistic culture here, but it has little impact on my music nor any modicum of success I have achieved as a musician. I've always preferred to reach far rather than near.

### Tell us about your latest release.

*South Of Heaven* is my second album, it was released on March 13, as the world closed down to protect itself from the pandemic. I wrote it in endless hours of isolation and soul-searching, in times of fear, of guilt, of heartbreak, of confusion, lust, change, challenge, growth, loss, insecurity, and even moments of absolute joy. It was recorded in Baltimore with J. Robbins, in Chicago with Steve Albini, and in London with Simon Small. Numerous friends appeared on it, including Nick Thieneman, Hayden Menzies, Erik Denno, Janet Morgan, and others. I'm proud of it and think it's a great record.

### What's next for your band?

I'm truly not sure what's next for me or for the world at this moment. It's a strange new time where we gingerly step forward day by day. I hope to return to touring and traveling as soon as it is safe for me and for audiences. At the moment I'm answering this question I'm very happy to see people around the world standing up and fighting against systemic racism and police brutality. I'm truly hoping we emerge from this time in history with a world that is vastly improving.

### Where can people find out more about your band and any other projects members are involved in?

[www.fotocrime.com](http://www.fotocrime.com)



THIS PAGE  
Upper photos by Katie Lovecraft.  
Lower photo by Nick Thiereman.