

Blitzen Trapper

Furr ★★★½

SUB POP

Portland bard focuses sonic disarray into intergalactic twang

With 2007's dizzyingly pastoral *Wild Mountain Nation*, this genre-blending sextet rendered any reductive classification impossible. But on their fourth album, singer-songwriter Eric Earley takes a stab: "I'm a moon-walkin' cowboy," he sings on the heartfelt ballad "Not Your Lover." The band's freak-out, slacker glam jams return, but it's Earley's comparatively focused alt-country side that impresses; rollicking outlaw narrative "Black River Killer" and backwoodsy "Lady on the Water" shine with spacey, eclectic instrumentation, from blipping synths to serene woodwinds. *WILLIAM GOODMAN*

