

★ ★ ★

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## PINBACK

*Autumn of the Seraphs* • Touch & Go

With mainstream cred finally bestowed upon them after several of their tracks landed on *The O.C.*, San Diego's Pinback seem to have reached the point in their nearly decade-long career where they don't have to prove anything anymore. The duo of **Armistead Burwell Smith IV** and **Rob Crow**, who record and play with a rotating group of musicians, sounds resolutely confident in its musical identity, crafting a precise collection of multifaceted indie-pop songs that resonate with clarity and vibrancy. The slow-rising—and notably lovely—"How We Breathe" quietly explores hushed layers of dulcet vocals and lines of pulsating melody while comparably upbeat "Devil You Know" takes a less meandering approach to songwriting, presenting more straight-forward tones of carefully executed indie rock. *Autumn of the Seraphs* reveals a practiced, confident version of Pinback that doesn't necessarily deviate from the music of past records, but certainly ascends it to a whole new level. ★ *Emily Zemler*



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