

Age of Life – The Concept Behind The Project

Age of Life is an ambitious long-form musical concept exploring the evolution of life on Earth across hundreds of millions of years. Created by Chris Burda, co-founder of the internationally recognized instrumental post-rock project "Collapse Under The Empire", the project emerged from the desire to create something beyond a traditional album format. During the creative hiatus of his main band,

Chris Burda began developing a deeply personal artistic vision combining music, narrative and visual identity into one continuous experience. At its core, Age of Life is a reflection on time, transformation and the fragile nature of existence. The project follows the evolutionary journey of life — from its earliest beginnings through periods of expansion, complexity, extinction and renewal. The scientific timeline serves as a foundation, but the focus is not on creating a musical documentary. Instead, each composition acts as an emotional interpretation of a specific moment in Earth's history. Every track represents a different atmosphere, movement or state of being: the emergence of new possibilities, the complexity of interconnected systems, moments of collapse and the constant transformation that defines life itself.

The project unfolds through a carefully planned release cycle spanning nearly two years. Various singles and two EP chapters gradually reveal the story before culminating in two interconnected full-length albums:

Emergence – Part I + Transformation – Part II

The two albums represent different stages of the same evolutionary journey. While Emergence – Part I focuses on beginnings, development and the formation of complexity, Transformation – Part II explores further stages of change and evolution. Musically, Age of Life combines cinematic atmospheres, electronic structures, post-rock dynamics and emotional intensity. Influenced by film scores, art rock and melancholic sonic references from the 1980s, the project creates a space between organic and synthetic, ancient and futuristic.

A central element of Age of Life is the connection between sound and visual identity. Each release forms part of a larger artistic archive, with recurring symbols, visual elements and themes developing throughout the journey. The artwork is not simply decoration, but another layer of storytelling that expands the world of the music.

The project invites listeners to experience music not as a collection of individual

songs, but as chapters of a much larger evolving narrative. This is not just an album cycle. It is a musical archive of existence. Ultimately, Age of Life is an exploration of perspective. It asks questions rather than providing answers:

How does life transform through time?

What remains after moments of destruction?

How are we connected to a history that began long before us?