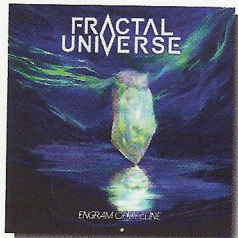


## FRACTAL UNIVERSE

'Engram Of Decline'  
Progressive Metal  
Kolony



This band are coming out of the gate in impressive fashion. There is a sound that will appeal to fans of acts such as Fallujah, Cynic, Obscura and even Ihsahn. Jazzy guitar work, propellant-yet-textured drumming and extreme vocal lines weave together on the opening tracks, the epic 'Premiss To Reality' and the

more brooding 'Sons Of Ignorance', which makes room for some acoustic work that reminds me of some of Ne Obliviscaris' calmer moments. 'Scar Legacy Of Hatred' borrows a little from Meshuggah's playbook, albeit with more melody in hand.

The band manages to keep this album flowing well for a whole hour without the music becoming stale or repetitive. Their melding of tempos and keen feel for the execution and phrasing of each riff leaves little time on the record that feels like it is surplus to requirement. At times Vince Wilquin's vocals can seem a little bit limited, at least in contrast to the expansive nature of the music around them, but for fans of modern bands like Sylosis this should be little issue. Hopefully people will be able to key in to the concept of the record, which deals with the birth and history of human thought in both a societal and a more evolutionary manner. The inspiration apparently came from Nietzsche's 'Thus Spoke Zarathustra', which certainly shows some ambition from this young French band.

'Venomous Coils Of A Holy Fallacy' is my standout track on this record, as it shows the strength of this record's production, which reminds me a bit of Opeth's 'Watershed' album, which I

believe to be one of the best albums ever, sonically speaking; moody-yet-epic, with the spacious nature of the music allowing room for thought and wonder. It certainly helps this already explorative record become simply a joy to listen to.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧⑨

DANIEL R WARNES