

Of Embers
(2010 / n5MD)



Those that keep a close eye on Mike Cadoo's Bitcrush project may have been somewhat concerned with the title of his previous full-length, Epilogue in Waves. That album, by Cadoo's more private admission, was to be the last of his cathartic Bitcrush entity. Thankfully, writing music is an integral part of Cadoo and has become an important means to understand life. Now, two years later we see the release of Cadoo's sixth album from his Bitcrush project 'Of Embers.' Of Embers is his most intimate album and continues with the very personal cathartic nature we have come to expect. Cadoo has always transitioned between and fused together diverse styles seamlessly and with each album has moved the Bitcrush meme towards his personal needs of expression. Of Embers begins where the Epilogue in Waves' song Pearl left us. Presented are longer movements each that progress and tell their story patiently using the sound that has grown to become the Bitcrush norm. Of Embers is an hour in length, yet boasts only six tracks; three tracks over 10 minutes and two that approach 15 minutes. Of Embers finds Cadoo looking even further back into his experiences and inner struggles than ever before to create what may be the most hopeful album of his musical career.



Bitcrush is the musical catharsis of Mike Cadoo who has spent the last 10+ years trying to change people's perception of what electronic music is supposed to "feel" like. As one half of the influential post-industrial duo Gridlock, and solo as Dryft, he helped fuse human emotion with electronics, two things that previously were thought to be antonymous of one another. Furthering the human emotion in electronics credo, Cadoo started the MiniDisc label n5MD which in it's current non MiniDisc format is best known for high quality emotional experiments in music. Shortly before the implosion of Gridlock, Cadoo started Bitcrush, a project that would allow him to venture beyond the constraints of the Gridlock sound. All based on a desire to both return to his roots and to scope un-chartered ground.

Epilogue In Waves
(2008 / n5MD)



The first solo venture as Bitcrush "Enarc" (Component) was a firm grounded full-length which featured later day IDM style beatwork and melancholic synths mixed with heavy sprinklings of bass and six string guitars. Brainwashed said of Enarc "Standing defiant before the blown out hull of IDM, Enarc is an aurally arresting affair that stays captivating throughout". This was just the tip of the iceberg. Enarc was an album which strongly hinted of a transition, a constant in the Bitcrush ethos.

In Distance
(2007 / n5MD)



To follow was the Shimmer and Fade ep on the pay-per download site En:peg Digital. Shimmer and Fade ran a fine line between My Bloody Valentine and Slowdive style guitar splendor and experimental electronica's tried and true DSP beat trickery. It also featured for the first time, Cadoo's now signature "the one left behind" vocal style. Shimmer and Fade is where a "Bitcrush" sound developed...and yet again Cadoo hinted at something yet to come...

Shimmer and Fade
(2005 / 2008
enpeg / n5MD)



In 2005 Cadoo spent most of the year in the studio working on his second full-length "In Distance" (n5MD). In Distance being the release that Enarc and Shimmer and Fade both hinted to. Further blurring the lines between emotion and electronics In Distance added even more elements to the mix by featuring live drums, rhodes, shimmering melancholic guitars and basswork reminiscent of a modern day multi-bass Joy Division. The end result being something which takes these musical elements to create a powerful emotional mass which is equal parts (post)rock and emotional experimental electronica yet transparent by design, execution, and transmission.

Enarc
(2004 / component)



In early 2008 Cadoo's 3rd album as Bitcrush "Epilogue in Waves" was released (n5MD US/CAN/EU Zankyo JP). "Epilogue in Waves" by Cadoo's admission is the closest he has ever come to the more standard "rock" format of guitar/ bass/drums by stripping away the overt electronic motifs of his past releases for a more stripped down yet still epic and emotional sound. "Epilogue in Waves" also closes a certain chapter in the Bitcrush evolution by not hinting at transition like the other releases but hinting, not only in title but in sound, of some sort of closure. This closure lead most to believe it was the final release of Cadoo's Bitcrush project.

WWW
bitcrush.net
myspace.com/haveyoulostyourway

2 years would pass before the release of 2010's 'Of Embers' album. Clocking in at just under an hour this new album boasts only 6 songs which stylistically pick up right were the Epilogue in Waves track 'pearl' left off. The album gives us hope that these embers will catch fire and the Bitcrush project will continue on to provide Cadoo with the voice he needs to express himself.

