

THE OCEAN

Since 2001, the Berlin-based musician collective **THE OCEAN** have released 7 critically acclaimed studio albums, and a split EP with Japanese post rock legends MONO. With an ever-changing lineup of various on- and off-stage musicians and visual artists, the relentlessly touring group have become well known for their overwhelming live shows, which they have carried into the most remote corners of the globe, from Siberian squats to South American colonial theatres.

THE OCEAN have toured with bands like OPETH, MASTODON, MONO, THE DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN, ANATHEMA, BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME, RED FANG and DEVIN TOWNSEND, and have appeared on major festivals like Roskilde, Dour, Pukkelpop, Roadburn, Wacken, With Full Force, Summer Slaughter, Summer Breeze or Graspop. The band's own label **PELAGIC RECORDS** have become one of the leading labels for post rock and post metal worldwide, with a catalog of 120 releases since 2009.

THE OCEAN's love for conceptual records with great attention to detail is quite obvious, not only from the award-winning album packagings: for the lavish acrylic boxset of the band's „Pelagial“ album, over 10.000 acrylic layers were made, individually silk-screen printed and assembled by hand... and if you have never seen a gatefold with die cuts or rotating gold-foiled PVC dials screwed on top of it, have a look at 2010's double album „Heliocentric / Anthropocentric“ – a concept album about the legacy of Christianity, with lyrics orbiting between the old testament, Copernikus, Galilei, Charles Darwin and Richard Dawkins, the spearhead of modern atheism. „The Ocean do for earth science class what Mastodon did for Melville: make learning brutal“, DECIBEL wrote about 2007's „Precambrian“ album, a „Teutonic paean to Earth's geology“ (REVOLVER).

2013's seminal album 'Pelagial' (2013), „a filmic ode to shifting moods, dichotomous influences and the musical personification of sinking towards the planet's deepest underwater points“ (ROCK SOUND), was a milestone for the band, and their most conceptual work to date. The album was ranked #3 at LoudWires' best Metal albums of 2013, and #5 in About.com's „2013 Best Heavy Metal Albums“.

After 5 years of touring „Pelagial“, the band started recording their 8th studio album in February 2018, titled „Phanerozoic“. The Phanerozoic is the eon that follows right after the Proterozoic, the final eon in the Precambrian supereon. It spans the recent 500 million years in earth's history, from the end of the Precambrian until the present tense. The Phanerozoic saw the evolution and diversification of plant and animal life on earth, and the partial destruction of it during 5 great mass extinction events. Conceptually and musically, THE OCEAN's 'Phanerozoic' shall form the missing link between 'Precambrian' (2007) 'Heliocentric' / 'Anthropocentric' (2010).



The new album recording session began with drum tracking at Sigur Ros' own Sundlaugin studios in Iceland. „We were looking for an isolated place in a cold and beautiful environment, to get us into the right mood for making this record“, comments THE OCEAN mastermind Robin Staps. „The new album will start off bleak, cold and heavy... and then evolve and diversify throughout the 2nd half.“

The band collaborated once more with CULT OF LUNA's Magnus Lindberg (stringed instruments), Julien Fehlmann (drums), and Jens Bogren (mix/mastering), who was already responsible for the sound of „Pelagial“. „There is no reason to change a perfectly working formula“, Staps comments with regards to the choice of the production team.

„**Phanerozoic I: Palaeozoic**“ will be released worldwide on November 2, 2018 through Metal Blade Records and Pelagic Records. The 2nd part is scheduled for a release in late 2019.

