

SMARAGD

<http://smaragd.cjb.net> • email: dave_ward@mac.com
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FACT SHEET

Artist Name: Smaragd

Musical Genre: Rock or progressive rock

City of Origin: Bellingham, Washington, United States

Band Members: Smaragd's real name is Dave Ward. All instruments and vocals are performed by him.

Background Information:

May 1987 – Dave Ward and Rick (Karhu) Anderson form **Alloy** in Aberdeen, Washington.

Circa 1992 – As the music matures significantly, the band renames itself **Jawbone**. Around the same time, Dave sometimes records solo projects under the name **And**.

June 1993 – Jawbone relocates to Bellingham, Washington. Dave begins using the name **Canary Thunder** for solo projects. He writes a complete “concept album” called *Atman Gita Sutra*.

Circa 1997 – Although Jawbone never disbands officially, Rick and Dave record together less frequently and eventually no longer work together on original music projects.

2000 – Dave adopts the pseudonym **Smaragd** and returns to working on solo projects.

December 2001 – Smaragd releases his debut album, *Suchness*, on his own **infin80** label as a free promotional download on the Internet even as he is beginning work on his first “proper” solo album, tentatively titled *Mythconception*.

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ARTIST BIO

Smaragd (real name: Dave Ward) is a rock/progressive rock artist from Bellingham, Washington, USA. Although Smaragd's music has an original, unique sound, he has been influenced by ambitious artists such as Pink Floyd, Rush, Radiohead and King Crimson. Smaragd's atmospheric, thickly-layered sound belies a similar musical ambitiousness.

Smaragd recently released his first album, ***Suchness***, a promotional compilation of new and old tracks. The featured track, "**Box**," is a new track recorded specifically for the *Suchness* album. The moody near-epic "**What Have You Done**" is an old mid-90s track hinting at his Floydian roots, "**Tao (You Cannot Move Me)**" is an even older acoustic guitar meditation. The atmospheric opening and closing tracks, "**Digital Jesus**" and "**Apotheosis**" are sneak-previews drawn from Smaragd's forthcoming conceptual album, tentatively titled ***Mythconception***.

In May of 1987, Rick (Karhu) Anderson and Dave Ward in Aberdeen, Washington formed a band, calling themselves **Alloy**. Despite being from the hometown of Kurt Cobain and several other "grunge" artists, Alloy went in an entirely different musical direction from the beginning, taking inspiration from more 'progressive' bands like Rush. Over the course of five years Alloy matured until they agreed a name change was needed. Around 1992 they chose a new name for themselves, and became **Jawbone**.

After relocating to Bellingham, Washington in June of 1993, Jawbone recorded many projects together, including a Pink-Floydian instrumental called "**Aural Gratification**" and their 22-minute prog rock epic, "**The World's Greatest Show**," as well as the highly metaphorical art-rock piece "**Superposition**" which was penned by Dave himself. (Select Jawbone tracks can be downloaded from the Smaragd web page at <http://smaragd.cjb.net>)

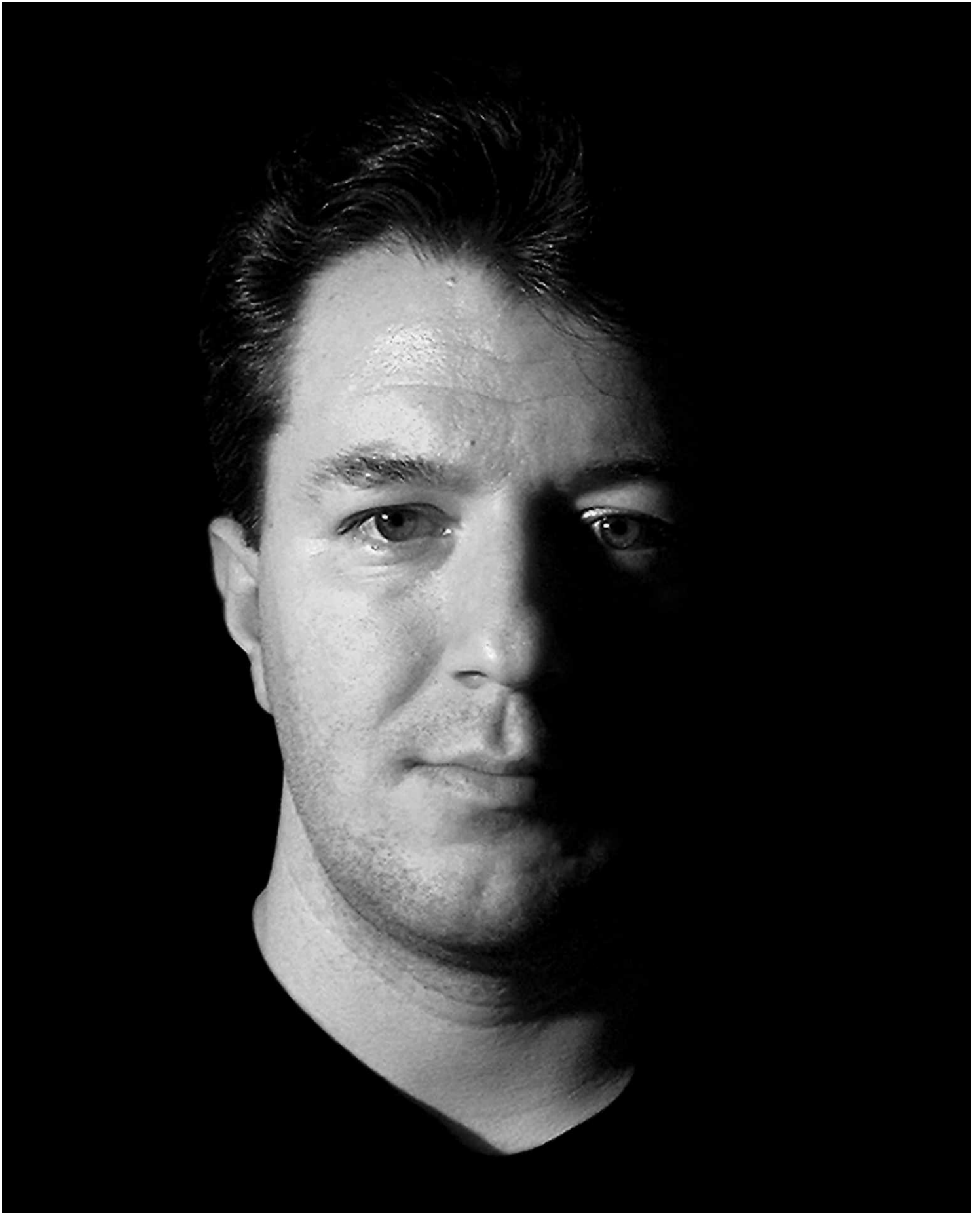
Dave also worked on some solo projects in the mid-1990s under the name **Canary Thunder**. Among the solo projects Canary Thunder recorded was "**Tao (You Cannot Move Me)**." Dave also wrote an entire conceptual album titled ***Atman Gita Sutra*** (loosely translated as "Song of the Thread of Self") about a man who loses his wife and child in a tragic automobile accident, and his efforts to cope with the loss. Jawbone recorded several tracks from *Atman Gita Sutra*, but did not finish the project together. By 1997 Jawbone were recording together less and less frequently until they eventually were not recording any longer. But after a period of musical near-inactivity, Dave adopted the pseudonym **Smaragd** in late 2000 and began working on solo projects again.

Smaragd's debut album ***Suchness*** was released as a way to introduce the world to his music and establish some measure of awareness of his work. Smaragd is now working on his forthcoming concept album, ***Mythconception***. The forthcoming *Mythconception* album is a dark, almost Orwellian story of an indeterminate future-present in which humanity has abandoned its mythologies and its spirituality in favor of purely factual, strictly concrete scientific knowledge.

Smaragd hopes to gain some attention so that *Suchness*—and more importantly, *Mythconception*—can reach the appropriate audiences most effectively.

"I make music not because I want to, but because I *have* to," says Smaragd. "I would like for my work to be appreciated and enjoyed by others. But even if the only person who hears it is myself, I'd still make it."

Suchness, including the CD packaging, can be downloaded free of charge from <http://smaragd.cjb.net>



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Information and free downloads:
<http://smaragd.cjb.net>

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