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### Gojira, "The Way of All Flesh" (Prosthetic)

Hard to believe these Froggie metallians have been kicking around for 12 years; harder to believe they keep taking gigantic evolutionary leaps. As much of an impression as the slow-swimming cetacean spasms of 2006's "From Mars to Sirius" made, "The Way of All Flesh" introduces a cannier creature -- less repetitive, more prehensile, more explosive. This sounds like a band on the verge of dominion.

Gojira want to do everything now. Hear especially the 10-minute "The Art of Dying," which sneaks in with a quietly clicking African percussion groove before undertaking a mess of shifts: hard blast, aching drag, body-blow double-kick, imperial Russian pomp -- all interspersed with Tuvan drones, textured white noise and vocalist Joe Duplantier's near-melodic cough.

Every track has its own tricks, though, with a lotta change-ups in tempo and density. "Toxic Garbage Island" hits hard with its machine-gun surge & dirge. "Adoration for None" (featuring Lamb of God voxman Randy Blythe) rallies the troops with angry slog and horror-movie riffing. The insistent, majestic title track that concludes the record features one of the most effective false endings you'll hear, dark and understated.

Plainly, too, Gojira are willing to suck up virtually any kind of music: ELP cheez-synth and Mansonesque chant ("A Sight To Behold"), evil buzz-picked black metal ("Esoteric Surgery"), a touch of Dio gallop ("Vacuity"), even cinematic pirate swagger ("Wolf Down the Earth"). Though the musicianship isn't showy, with the exception of the versatile Mario Duplantier's drums, the four demonstrate a composer's ability to communicate, breaking the sound into chewable chunks and keeping you listening with tight track sequences or, in the album's second half, burbling backward-guitar links.

Artful stuff. These guys should tour with Intronaut, and not only because they've got similar abstract sound aesthetics; J. Duplantier's inside-cover pterodactyl illo resonates well with

