

## Control Denied - The Fragile Art Of Existence

From [Chad Bowar](#),  
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To explore more progressive and melodic styles, Death's Chuck Schuldiner formed Control Denied. It included vocalist Tim Aymar, guitarists Schuldiner and Shannon Hamm, bassist Steve DiGiorgio and drummer Richard Christy. Fans of Howard Stern may know Christy as the hick from Kansas who makes funny phone calls and isn't afraid to do any stunt imaginable, but he's also one of the best drummers in metal.

*The Fragile Art Of Existence* was released in 1999, and was Control Denied's only album due to the tragic death of Schuldiner in 2001. There are some death metal influences, but this CD is mostly progressive and power metal. The songs are long, ranging from 5 to 9 minutes in length, and allow plenty of room for the band to showcase their musical prowess. The guitar work is exceptional. The interplay of riffs and solos between Schuldiner and Hamm is outstanding. Christy is a very skilled drummer, and it's nice to actually hear the bass turned up to its rightful place in the mix, and DiGiorgio makes the most of it.

The vocals on the CD are all melodic, and Aymar is a solid but not spectacular singer. *The Fragile Art Of Existence* was a compelling debut from a very promising band, and it's too bad we didn't get to hear what else they would have created.

(released April 15, 2008 on Metal Mind Productions)

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