

# The power of transformation

Veronika's Ndiigo – „FLY“ – new release 2018



In 2014 Veronika Stalder won the Armenian Tsovits Tsov Song Contest as the vocalist of the Authentic Light Orchestra. She was then interviewed by a local journalist who asked her a first question in ... Armenian. Veronika Stalder had to excuse herself with a smile for not speaking the national language.

The anecdote says a lot about the young Swiss singer, who was born in Liestal and lives in Lucerne. Rather than being Swiss, she feels like a citizen of the world. She loves to express herself in a multitude of languages and idioms, the most important being music. In 2016 she won the prestigious Russian World Music Award, and has made several collaborations with Serj Tankian, singer of System of A Down (USA), among others for the feature film about the Armenian genocide "The Promise" (2017 - Terry George "Hotel Rwanda").

Veronika (as she calls herself in the context of her own band project) has received the gift of an enormous musical talent. But this is no reason for her to lean back and take it easy; she loves challenges.

**«If you help to free a butterfly from its cocoon, it won't be able to develop the strength it needs to spread its wings - it will die. It needs the struggle of leaving the cocoon to strengthen its wings so that it can FLY!»**

This first sentence in the booklet to the new album "Fly" are representative of the path that she has chosen for herself: the transformation from inside. To recognize one's own

limits , to become stronger by taking on the challenges. To then shed the old skin and to fly on with strong wings.

Veronika tells us of this particular section of her artistic route in these new 11 songs. She leaves the city for the woods, for majestic trees, for the Mola Mola fish in the ocean, for the starry sky of the Native Americans. These are not just metaphors. Veronika likes to spend a lot of time in the woods and by the sea. She has spent time with the Lakota in South Dakota. Mother Nature, the earth is a force that gives her strength: «When I feel that connection, I do not need all that modern life offers us to be happy.»

**«She's your mother she gives you all you need / gave you a warm body a tongue to speak / fresh air to breath and a heart that beats / she's your mother she loves you endlessly / gave you two feet to dance to her beat / step softly upon her.»**

Veronika has been working with her extraordinary band Ndiigo since 2013. Oli Hartung (guitars), Samuel Baur (drums), Antonio Schiavino (bass) are renowned Swiss musicians who have accompanied many famous singers such as Shirley Grimes, Hank Shizzoe, Trummer, Müslüm, Seven or Gus MacGregor. They add a wealth of experience and knowledge to her music. Prince Moussa Cissokho, a griot musician from Senegal is the cherry on the cake. He is a master Kora-player, the 22-strings-lute from West Africa. When he sings in Wolof, one of the national languages in Senegal, the sun rises. Which leaves the singer and instrumentalist Veronika.

Drummer Samuel Baur says: "One of the nice things about Veronika: she is not only a fantastic singer, but she is also an accomplished instrumentalist. She hears every sound, every nuance in the sound, even while singing. She reacts to every detail, with her guitar, her voice, her whole being.»

Veronika's Ndiigo play together as a live body and have produced a tightly woven, breezily dancing carpet of sound, which transports Veronika's stories perfectly. This is world class world music with influences ranging from folk to jazz and soul – a sound that takes the audience on a fantastic trip.



**Veronika's Ndiigo – the band:**

Vocals, acoustic guitar, violon - Veronika Stalder  
Kora , vocals - Prince Moussa Cissokho

Electric and acoustic guitars - Oli Hartung  
Electric bass - Antonio Schiavano  
Percussion - Samuel Baur