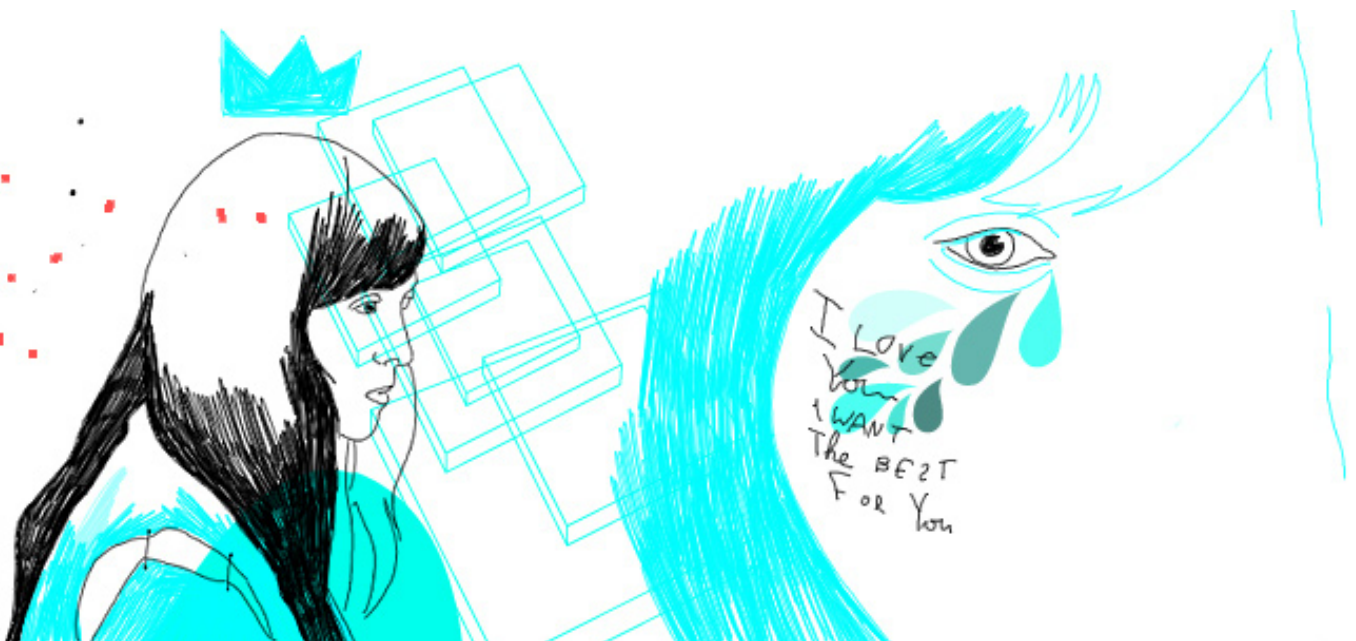


Antony

text Igor Romanov, illustration [Lana](#)



Some of your songs are based around the idea of becoming/being someone you are not. Is this a permanent longing?
Are you satisfied with who you are now?

Hm. Let me think about that for a minute. I think my last album is about different kinds of transformation... between male - female, between life - death, light -darkness... Different kinds of psychic transformation...

When i was writing the album i was thinking a lot about this idea about the family of archetypes within a person and i was thinking a lot about the dialogue between the different archetypes of the family inside a person. So, for instance, every person carries a mother, a father, a boy and a girl and a baby inside them... And my album was in some ways an exploration of a dialogue between those different characters inside a person. In terms of am i comfortable with who i am now... yeah, i am comfortable with who i am now...

So if **I am a Bird Now** was partly about the interaction between the archetypes of the family may i assume that the song **"Fistful of love"** is about domestic violence.

I think that's definitely part of it. Yeah. I think it definitely was a part of it...

Some of my friends think it is about the BDSM relations..

Yeah. It's not about that.. You know that's funny because it's the oldest song on the album... And it's funny how my perception of it has changed over the years... When i sing it now i am really thinking of it in quite an open way... In the way of people in love and how we hurt each other how we hurt the ones we love... This song is a little bit like a question mark for me.

That song **"Fistful of love"** and **"Cripple and the Starfish"** - they both leave me with a kind of a strange feeling when i sing them now... They are a little mysterious to me... They certainly motivate me as a singer... But it certainly is not any kind of endorsement...

I think you're right when you say that there's an aspect of it that it is about domestic violence... and the way that... even people in very close relationships can hurt each other.

The overall feeling of your most recent releases is kind of blue. But when you play live it is more like a cabaret. Lots of fun and jokes... You can even stop in the middle of a song and pull a joke on the audience?

Is it easier for you to be blue or to be gay?

It really depends on the night... My performance style is kind of erratic. It really depends on the night and the circumstances. After how i'm interacting with the audience... Sometimes we have a lot of fun and sometimes not. Obviously a lot of my songs are quiet and they're not really comic songs so... I think it's just kind of natural for me, you know? I don't think there's one way or the other... I like to laugh as well and sometimes i'm interested in performance that drives quite deep emotionally so there's room for all of that... In the emotional power of the evening i don't really separate the two... You have to have laughter and joy and you have to have... silence... Feeling things very deeply... enjoy things... see things from different perspectives. It's how i'm feeling and how they're feeling... There are so many things that go into the way that the moment unfolds...

When you walk into the theater... When i step on stage it's like... the songs are like a script but every night you bring a different feeling, you view them with a different kind of intention or a different feeling depending on what's going on around you...

There are a lot of different directions.

When you play live, do you still play mostly the songs from the I am a Bird Now era, or do you play the new songs too - i mean the ones that will be on your next record?

Well, we're doing this concert in Moscow that will be at the end of June... is it in the end of June?

I think it's the fifth of July.

Yeah. And we're all really excited about coming up there. The concert that we're doing is really a mixture of songs of my first two albums and also several songs that i've been developing for my new album and also a bunch of songs by other artists that i really admire. So there's a whole mixture of stuff that we will be playing.

I've heard that you have made some installations. What are they about?

Oh. I did an installation with a friend of mine – **William Basinski** – we did a piece for a... it's a museum space... It's a museum in an old mansion in the north of England... It was a sound installation in the sala of the house... It's in a kind of a stone dungeon... My idea was to imagine like if there was a vibration or a consciousness to the stones of the sala.. What would it sound like? What story would it tell? Kind of voices emerging from the stones... and the walls... We made like 25 pieces for that installation in this place called the **Belsay Manor**. We did that recently.

Well i've been mostly working on my new record. We are just stopping to come up and do some concerts in June and July and then i will be going back into the studio and hide there for the rest of the year.

So do you already have some new songs recorded?

Yeah, we've been recording quite a lot, we've been doing a lot of work in the last couple of months especially. So we're kind of taking a break from that. And also it's just great to be on the road again because we can work on some of the songs for the new record and develop them in front of an audience. Things can go through a few different stages of growth before you record them. With my last album – we played all the songs of my last album **I am a Bird Now**... We played them three years before i've I had recorded them. And we played them in concert for years so they had a chance to kind of evolve. So in a similar way i kind of hope that this might be a good opportunity for some of the new songs to evolve.

Do you consider yourself an artist?

I guess i consider myself an artist... and a musician.

Is your life an object of art?

It depends on the evening. But i am very conscious of things. Presentationally... And i do things in moment... And then every moment is an object of art i think... It's just a matter of looking at it the right way... I think oftentimes when we do concert we are seeking some kind of revelation in the moment... When this happens we're deeper than we would be in the pedestrian lives. I think in a way it's the way we look at art... Just a naked life and in a way it wouldn't be so wonderful to see an object of art... Because life is a crate of expression... The whole thing is just a crazy creative masterpiece. But we take so much from it for crunches, we learn not to question it or to fall into the reverie... the reverie around it... But i think when we go to the theater, to see music, to the museum we're looking for an excuse or an opportunity to sit with the mysteries form of life... We are surrounded by the smallest things looking out to the big picture. I think i do chase that as much as any other artist really chases that. You know, my chase is as a singer.

You are often considered a member of the New Weird America movement.

Do you feel like a part of it?

I do. I do feel very much like a part of the counter cultural voice in America.

Is it important for an artist to be a part of a community or a movement?

I think it's important for artists to be true to themselves. And i think what's nice about it... that i might perceive a group of musicians in America that are having significant relationship with each other, and that they're all extremely individualistic. Every person, every voice. They may not bear that much resemblance to one another aesthetically but i think what really binds them together is their sincerity and their intention.

And i think community is a wonderful thing but it doesn't always happen but when it does happen, you know, i welcome it.

I think there's one thing in common between them – they are all infantile. In a good way.

I think there's kind of innocence. But it's a knowing innocence. I don't think it's naive. I don't think it's a naive gesture.

CocoRosie are really cultivating very private universe, very personal garden

inside themselves in which to flourish. You know i think it's the reflection partly of the fact that there there aren't safe places in culture for people to develop. You know i think it's like a gesture of an outfighter in a way - to create a private universe or a very personal universe in which they're safe to have a voice, safe to dream...

So they created a safe sanctuary for themselves and then they share that sanctuary with the world through their work and i think it's very generous gesture really. I mean those 2 women are very strong women but at the same time it's a gesture of great...

It's a very vulnerable thing to do. I recognize it because i probably do something similar with my own work.

There are other people doing other kinds of things too... I mean i really love **Animal Collective** because they're doing the same thing in a very different way. I would characterize people's solutions as very kind of personal.

Did you like the **Panda Bear** solo record?

I haven't heard Noah's solo record yet. I've heard a couple of bits from it. I adore him. I adore him.

I assume that you are being asked about your working experience with **Bjork** a lot these days... so did you hear **Volta**?
Of course.

Did you like it?

I love it.

To me it seems like the most conventional album **Bjork** ever made. "**The Dull Flame of Desire**" is adorable but the rest is kind of boring.

Oh. I don't really agree... *(laughs)* I don't agree with you.

Maybe i got used to her. I don't know.

I love the album. I think it's a courageous album. I love the themes and her direction. I think it's a really responsive album.

It's very much in the present. Working with her is really inspiring.

Would it be a tragedy for you if people would get used to you?

Would it be a tragedy? No... I don't think so.

I mean i don't take for granted that people would be interested in me.

Are you in love now?

(laughs) It's a little bit complicated in my heart right now.

Love is always complicated.

(laughs) Yeah.

Do you fall in love easily?

Not easily, but naturally.

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