

Ruth Goller “Skylla”

Vula Viel Records (VVL004 / VVCD004)

Vinyl/CD/Digital

Release date: July 9th

Singles:

1st single / announcement - May 7th

Often They Came To Visit, Even Just To See How She Was (M1)

2nd single - June 11th

I Is One (M10)



Ruth Goller’s ‘Skylla’ shines a long-awaited light on one of the most important musicians to have driven and revolutionised the UK jazz and improv scenes over the last 16 years. The bassist, vocalist, composer, environmentalist and now solo artist, draws inspiration from deep within to create a stunningly original and beautiful piece of work.

Hailed by the **Guardian** for her “thunderous bass-guitar hooks’, **Goller** helped lay the foundation for the UK’s jazz renaissance whilst playing in many of its most influential and popular bands, from her years on stage with **Acoustic Ladyland** and **Melt Yourself Down**, to more recently **Let Spin** and **Vula Viel**, whilst performing and recording with the likes of **Shabaka Hutchings**, Mercury-Award nominee **Kit Downes**, **Sam Amidon**, **Bojan Z**, **Marc Ribot**, **Rokia Traoré**, and **Paul McCartney**.

On ‘**Skylla**’, **Goller** in some ways returns to the pure untaught instincts that drove her as a teen punk musician. Working with different tunings for each song, Goller composes instinctively based on what she hears in every moment. As Goller puts it, “at that point muscle memory doesn’t work anymore so I have to trust my ear completely”.

Coming from the border region between Italy and Austria, Goller grew up fascinated by the differences and similarities in the intentions behind speech. This ear for words has influenced her approach to vocals; improvising them through streams of consciousness around her bass playing, focusing on the sound and feeling, and almost inventing a new language through abstraction. As **Goller** puts it, “Music is a language and I always want to learn as much as I can about it”.

Initially **Goller** recorded all vocals alone, before inviting accomplished and celebrated vocalists **Lauren Kinsella** and **Alice Grant** to lend their additional voices to particular pieces; with the knowledge they would rise to the challenge of singing words free of language to irregular tunings. The final contribution came from **Kit Downes**, who produced and mixed the album.

Opener “**Often they came to visit, even just to see how she was (M1)**” sets the eerie, yet beautiful, tone. Somehow akin to hearing Brazilian singer Joyce, accompanied by avant-guitarist Derek Bailey and edited by William Basinski. And the closing “**I is One (M10)**”, creates more tension than you’d expect from a Mica Levi horror soundtrack with its long, drawn out notes.

Intimate voice and bass guitar entwine in improvised tandem on **Goller's** debut album, exhibiting a confidence that reflects her experience at the vanguard of the European jazz scene. A work of uncanny and original beauty on which **Goller** has reached deep within to find pure honesty and musical originality. **As ECM Reviews** put it, **Goller** “unravel(s) an intimacy so deep it (feels) almost blasphemous to be privy to its wonders.”

Tracklist

1. Often They Came To Visit, Even Just To See How She Was (M1)
2. In More Turbulent Times, She Managed To Take The Perfect Shot (M4)
3. What's Really Important She Wanted To Know - Part 1 (M6)
4. What's Really Important She Wanted To Know - Part 2 (M7)
5. What's Up Is Not What's Real Most Of The Time (M5)
6. When They Came Closer She Realised They Were Alien Creatures (M3)
7. The Shine Of Gold Was Too Strong (M8)
8. When She Curled Up They Started Dancing (M2)
9. He Was Painting Her Face With Colours She Had Never Seen (M9)
10. I Is One (M10)

Credits

All music written and recorded by Ruth Goller.

Electric bass, double bass and vocals on all tracks by Ruth Goller

Alice Grant on vocals on tracks 3,5,6, and Lauren Kinsella on vocals on tracks 4,6,7.

Produced and mixed by Kit Downes

Mastered by Tyler McDiarmid

Artwork by Paula Rae Gibson

Design by Pedro Velasco

Release coordinated by Bex Burch

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