

In Conversation With Susan Muranty: Darkness Illuminates Our Light

Sydney-based singer-songwriter, poet, and visual artist Susan Muranty has just released her most ambitious project to date. We caught up with her to talk about the new record, the story behind it, and where she's headed next.

VENTS: Congratulations on the release of “Darkness Illuminates Our Light.” How would you describe this album to someone hearing about it for the first time?

Susan Muranty: Thank you! I’d say it’s an exploration of finding beauty inside adversity – the idea that real bravery often surfaces in our darkest moments, and that the human spirit has this incredible capacity to keep going no matter what. It’s probably the most ambitious and personal work I’ve put out so far.

VENTS: This is your first full album since “Turquoise” back in 2022 and “Fire Dove” in 2023, both of which hit number one on Australia’s iTunes Singer-Songwriter and World charts. Did that earlier success change how you approached this new record?

Muranty: It gave me confidence, for sure, but I didn’t want to chase that same moment again. Between “Turquoise” and now, singles like “Ruby Ruby” picked up recognition from places like the International Songwriting Contest (ISC), Hollywood Music in Media Awards (HMMA) and the Australian Songwriters’ Association, and each of those experiences taught me something new about my own voice. The lyrics for “Beautiful Mistake” also won a SCALA Festival of Original Music Award here in Australia. This album is really the sum of that growth.

VENTS: Rather than being written as one continuous project, this album pulls together several award-winning singles you’ve released over the past year – “Wild For The Country,” “Night Undresses The Day,” “Ruby Ruby,” and “Summer Moon.” What made you want to bring those songs together into one body of work?

Muranty: Each of those songs stood on its own even before they came out, but once I sat with all of them together, I could see a bigger emotional arc forming – one about resilience and light emerging from hard times. It felt absolutely right to bring them together as a complete statement rather than just as scattered singles, especially in the world we live in right now. Finding beauty and bravery in the dark is my mantra and this album sums that up for me.

VENTS: You worked with Golden Guitar and ARIA-winning producer Matt Fell on this

record. What did he bring to the songs?

Muranty: Matt has such a masterful touch. He understood exactly what these songs needed sonically without ever getting in the way of the emotion in the writing or the vocals. He gave the whole record a backdrop that feels both polished and honest at the same time. Producers Michael Carpenter and Sven Tydeman also made amazing contributions to the album with Summer Moon, Take Back The Hurt and Night Undresses The Day. They all add to the beautiful music texture - the “velvet dark” of the overall album.

VENTS: The focus track is “Uncrossing Every Star.” What’s the story behind that song?

Muranty: It’s about the power of true love to carry you through even the most overwhelming challenges life throws at you. I wanted it to feel intimate, like a single, personal moment, but also universal enough that anyone going through something hard could hear themselves in it.

VENTS: You’ve built a reputation not just as a musician but as a poet and visual artist too. How do those other creative sides feed into your songwriting?

Muranty: They’re all connected for me. Whether I’m writing a lyric, a poem, or working visually, I’m usually circling the same emotional territory. This album in particular feels like all three of those instincts working together.

VENTS: What do you hope listeners take away from “Darkness Illuminates Our Light”?

Muranty: I hope they walk away feeling less alone in whatever they’re facing. If even one person hears this record during a hard chapter of their life and feels a bit more hope afterward, then it’s done exactly what I wanted it to do.

Listen to “Uncrossing Every Star” and the full album “Darkness Illuminates Our Light” now.

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