



randi russo

FRAGILE ANIMAL
(HIDDEN TARGET)

I really enjoyed New York songstress Russo's second LP, 2006's *Shout Like a Lady*, but her long-awaited third album is a gigantic leap forward. One immediately notices the warmer and more richly detailed, speakers-filling production, which accentuates her strongest, most fully-realized batch of tunes yet. *Fragile* opens with her two most beautiful songs ever: "Get Me Over" and "Venus on Saturn" are both radiant and magical, with Russo's confident, sensuous voice never sounding better (even while her lyrics often express self-doubt and frustration). The album doesn't let up from there, with hard-hitting bashers such as the pounding "Alienation" and churning "Head High" alternating with prettier numbers like the bouncy "Invitation" and wistful "Hurt Me Now," before closing with the dreamlike, Eastern-tinged epic "Restless Raga." With a knockout band backing her, *Fragile* is Russo's stunning tour de force. (hiddentarget.net)

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