

Chat Time

with artist Jeena Ragheb



Pink is a way of life with artist Jeena Ragheb (@artbyjayr). Recently I got the chance to ask the Montreal visionary about her life and more of what's to come.

Originally from Palestine, she's travelled a lot, and it certainly shows in her art, which invokes air of saccharine swagger, and a California daze. Combining both visuals and sound, Jeena hopes to create a world immerses the senses.

You can catch on Instagram and Twitter, with collaborative collections coming very soon.

by Will Denman



Q: Tell us a little about yourself, where are you from?

A: My name is Jeena, I'm a 20-year-old artist currently based in Montreal. I am studying Communications and Media studies at Concordia University. I work with different fundamentals of art that consist of painting, pencil sketching, digital art, animation, video and sound.

Q: Describe your craft, what do you do exactly?

A: My craft consists of taking my viewers to a more utopic world of still images that we see in real life. I am mostly known for creating digital art pieces, with a pastel dreamy colour palette, that results in a mixture of pop art and vapour wave combined. I also create motion images using my pastel colour palette.

Q: Were you always a sort of artsy person? Or was it a gradual interest?

A: Yes, I've been creating art ever since I was a little girl. I've always remembered myself as a kid drawing. It was either drawing or reading Archie Comic books.

Q: How long have been involved in the business?

A: I got involved in the business aspect of art last summer 2016, where I had my first art show along with other artists at the Matahari Art loft, and since then, I've been taking commissioned work for art pieces, and began to participate in more art shows around Montreal and one in Hong Kong.

Q: When you started selling pieces, had you ever imagined you'd be where you are now?

A: Not at all. Within the past year so much has happened in my art career that I need to take a step back to absorb it all. I would usually create pieces for myself in my sketchbook or just store them in a folder until I began to publish most of my works on my Instagram page @artbyjayr. Art is so personal to me, when I began publishing my art I felt as though a piece of myself is being revealed to the world, but when I received positive reactions from people from different places, it motivated me to keep going.

Q: You've recently transitioned to DJ-ing, was it a big change?

A: began to DJ very recently and I enjoy it a lot. It lets me vibe with people through music and it's exciting to watch people turn up to your taste of music. It wasn't a big change but it's added more to my art. Eventually I'd like to produce my own music to link with my own visuals.

Q: When you're DJ-ing, what sort of music do you play?

A: I like to play a lot of old school hip-hop mixed with modern dance/electronic, trap and dancehall. I usually play artists such as Aaliyah, Kendrick Lamar, Monte Booker, Mr. Eazi and Gucci Mane, to name a few.

Q: Describe your art process; do you need have any rituals to get in the state of mind?

A: When it comes to my art process, I realized I always have coffee or tea on the table while Soulection plays in the background, especially while painting. When it comes to my digital art pieces, I like to go to different cafes around Montreal in the mornings and create my pieces, or when the weather is nice work outdoors.

Q: In an interview with Missbish you've described yourself as "bubblegum pop artist"; has any pop music influenced your work?

A: Honestly pop music has never influenced me when it came to my art, my inspirations mostly come from soul, chill, old school kind of music such as Sasha Marie's mixes.

Q: You've transitioned from visual artist into performance art, are there any other areas of art you'd like to try?

A: Initially, I'd like to work with different aspects of art, but I'd like to mainly focus on creating cover arts, animated music videos and backdrop visuals for concerts, as well as design skateboards/longboards.

Q: You like to skateboard as well, has that influenced your work at all?

A: Definitely! My ultimate goal and dream is to open my own skate shop and just create endless designs on longboards and skateboards.

Q: Your pop art often includes holographic patches, instead of the typical flat colours that are associated with pop art. What made you do so?

A: I get inspired by vaporwave a lot, I like how it has a retro feel to it but remains dreamy and different. I like adding a little bit of that style into my work without going overboard that my work becomes defined as vapourwave.

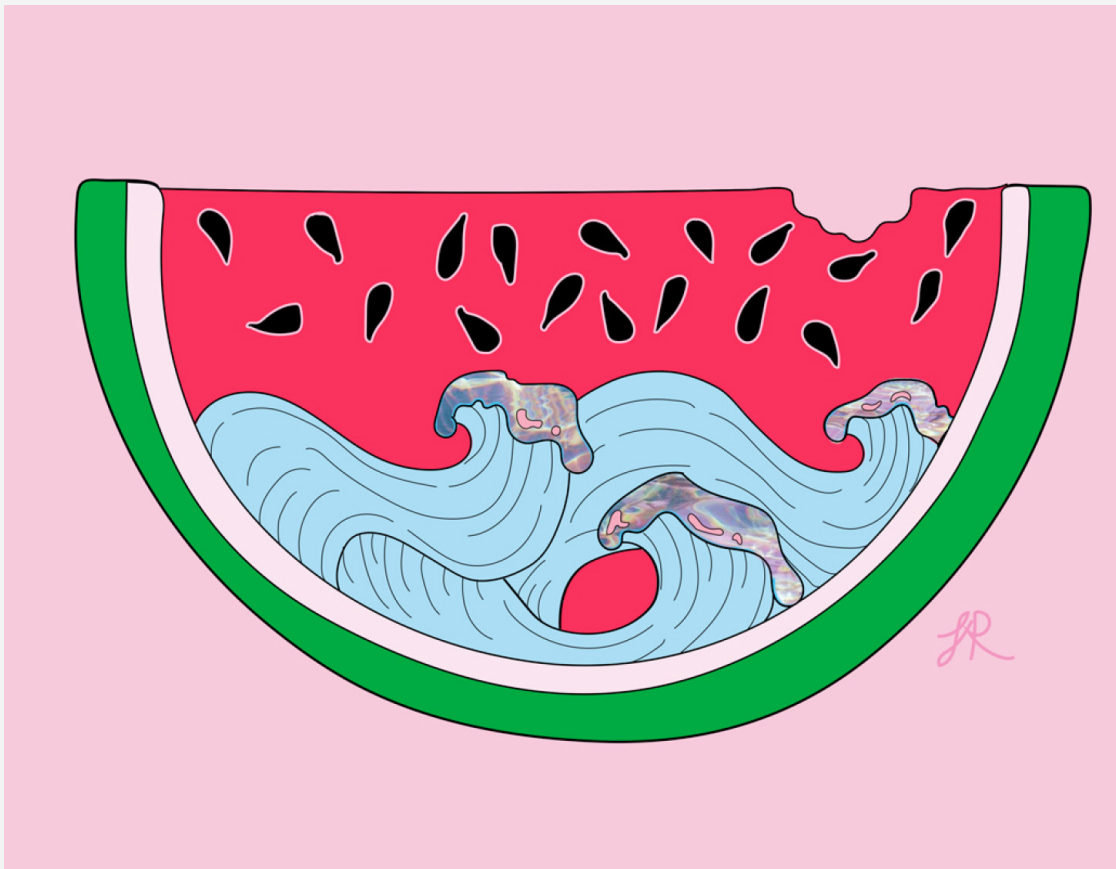
Q: What do you do when you're feeling creatively stumped?

A: You can't force, or rush art, these are my two rules. So, I'd usually go do something else until an idea comes to me.

Q: You're becoming quite active in artist community, both visually and sonically. Are there places/spaces in Montreal you'd absolutely love to perform at?

A: Yes, I'd love to play a set at SuWu sometime, I love the vibe I get whenever I'm there. As for art, I'd love to someday have a showcase at Station 16.





Q: In your work you use an array of lush pastels, would be ever see something with like neutrals?

A: You're gonna have wait and see but the pastel palette will probably remain.

Q: Has your life influenced your art in any way?

A: Yes, it's my life that has influenced my art the most. I grew up learning different forms of art, and I am still learning new forms of art today. I create pieces based on events that happen in my life, or how I see things. Especially when I travel, when I see something that catches my eye it instantly inspires me.

Q: Your work invokes summery vibes, and often features palm trees & waves. Could you ever see yourself living somewhere like California or Florida?

A: Definitely. A place that I would consider home away from home for me is Los Angeles. When I first went there for a visit, I felt like I was comfortably at home, especially since I grew up living in different places but never really felt home until I went to LA.

Q: At a glance, what do you want people to get from you when they see your art?

A: When people look at my art, I want them to come back and have a second look. Or have it catch their attention instantly. But I don't want my art to only be viewed, I want it to rather be felt instead.

Q: If you could describe you and/or your art in three words, what would they be?

A: Pink, Bubblegum, Wavey

Q: Lastly, do you have any upcoming events?

A: Yes! Many coming soon this summer! A brand based in Hong Kong called Miss Runner is releasing our collaboration next month that I am really excited about. As well as my collaboration with my sister's brand Buena Onda for her second collection. Check them both out on Instagram, @buena_onda @miss-runner .

