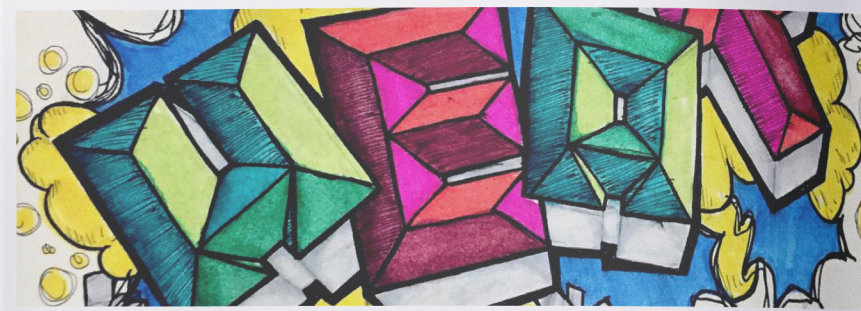


15 minutes With Alex Wheeler



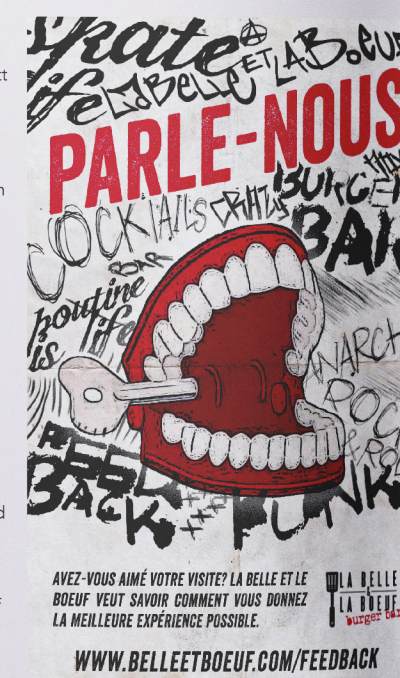
In this article we caught up with Alex Wheeler, a young graphic designer from Montreal, Quebec who, on the side, works on street art, lettering and graffiti. We had the chance to sit down and talk to him about street art, the urban art movement and his hopes for his work in that domain.

Q: Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A: I am a 23 year old graphic designer from Rigaud, Quebec. I dabbled with graphic design in high school and then went into the Graphic design program at John Abbott College. When I started the program it was called (PDHT). Graphic design has always been a passion for me but I've always been very into street art and graffiti. I am currently working for (COMNAVY NAME). I do a lot of posters and ads for various companies. If ever you are in the downtown Montreal area you might spot a billboard poster I did for La Belle et La Boeuf. Another good place to spot my work is Beta Bloque where I design most of their pamphlets, posters and promotional ads.

Q: How did you get into graffiti/street art?

A: I was never a very good at what you would call conventional drawing. I couldn't draw very realistic images. But I loved to draw. So I started doodling. Soon my doodles all followed a certain style that is now very apparent in my work that you see today. Very grungy almost alien creatures make up a lot of my pieces. For the graffiti aspect I was always interested in graffiti. I got into on the wrong foot however. When I was younger I decided to go out and tag a building near my house. I got caught by a cop just on a patrol. This run in turned me off to the actual spray painting graffiti on walls so I turned to pen and paper. After that whenever I went downtown I would take photos of the pieces or tags that I saw and when I got home I would try to recreate them in my sketchbook. Started selling my work and that's when I started to get noticed. I was paid to paint on a few smaller walls around my near my hometown but nothing major yet.



Q: What do you wish to achieve?

A: I wish to achieve something like the Montreal Mural Festival or Pow! Wow! Street Festival. To have my work be part of that, in a city like this? Montreal has a huge emphasis on the arts and street art and in recognition. On a smaller scale I would love to be commissioned to paint a mural for a business. I think it would be awesome to be walking downtown one day with my kids and say "Hey that's my dad's work". ...to add to the canvas that is the city of Montreal would be a dream come true.

Q: What are your biggest influences?

A: One of the biggest influences is SAM O'NEILL. I've seen his work in a few different places and I've always loved it. I think it's really cool how he uses his work to make a statement on social issues and I think it's really inspiring. I also love the work of Banksy. I think his work is really inspiring and I think it's really cool how he uses his work to make a statement on social issues and I think it's really inspiring.

Q: What is the most important thing for you?

A: I think the most important thing for me is to be able to express myself. I think it's really important to be able to express yourself and I think it's really important to be able to express yourself. I think it's really important to be able to express yourself and I think it's really important to be able to express yourself.



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