





CREATIVE DIRECTOR/PUBLICIST: AN OFFICER AND GENTLEWO-MAN, LLC

PHOTOGRAPHER: ALEX MOCNAISE POP ARTIST: MARIA RAQUEL





front cover

### Fashion Forward...

by An Officer and GentleWoman...



Mix of styles

by Duclareva Nataliya



Alli Cazaam

by Christa McKnight



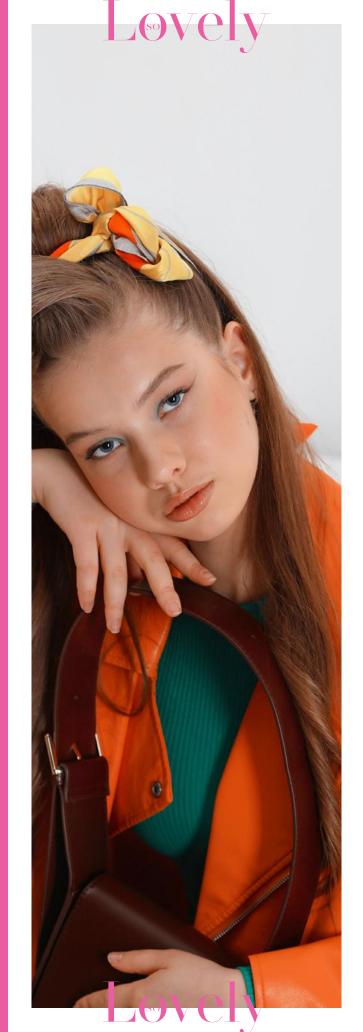
Jolie Fleur

by Claudine from Provence



#### SUBMISSIONS

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#### Maria Raquel's Unique Blend of Style and Sound

Maria Raquel, your music has been described as bringing a futuristic style to the indie pop genre. How do you define this unique approach, and what inspires you to create in this way?

For me, bringing a futuristic style to indie pop means blending contemporary sounds with elements that feel ahead of their time. I'm inspired by the idea of pushing boundaries and creating something that feels fresh and innovative while still being accessible and relatable. My music is influenced by a variety of genres and styles, from electronic and synth-pop to soul and R&B, which I think adds to its unique and futuristic quality.

Your new album, "1 AM," has been praised for its alternative grit and soulful vocals. How do you approach crafting such emotionally resonant music, and what do you hope listeners take away from your songs?

Crafting emotionally resonant music is really about tapping into my own experiences and emotions and translating that into my music. I think vulnerability is key to creating music that resonates with people, so I try to be as open and honest as possible in my songwriting. I hope that listeners can relate to my music on a personal level and find comfort or inspiration in my songs.

"Plot Twist," is a girl power anthem that celebrates independence and self-discovery. What message do you hope to convey to your audience through this song, and how do you think music can empower and uplift others?

With "Plot Twist," I wanted to convey a message of empowerment and resilience, especially for young women who may be going through difficult times. The song is about finding the strength to break free from a challenging situation and discovering your own power and worth. I think music has a unique ability to empower and uplift others by providing a voice for those who may feel unheard and by creating a sense of unity and solidarity among listeners.

You've mentioned that you aim to create music that can be cherished and enjoyed by audiences of all ages and backgrounds. How do you think your music transcends cultural boundaries, and why is this important to you as an artist?

I think music is a universal language that has the power to transcend cultural boundaries and bring people together. By creating music that is relatable and accessible to people from all walks of life, I hope to foster a sense of connection and understanding among listeners. As an artist, it's important to me to create music that can be enjoyed and appreciated by everyone, regardless of their background or experiences.

Your music is not only innovative in its sound but also in its fashion and style. How do you approach fashion as an extension of your artistic expression, and how do you see your fashion choices influencing cultural trends?

Fashion has always been an important part of my artistic expression. I see it as an extension of my music, a way to visually communicate the mood and message of my songs. I'm inspired by a variety of styles, from vintage classics to futuristic looks, and I love experimenting with different looks and aesthetics. I think fashion has the power to influence cultural trends by challenging norms and inspiring others to think outside the box. As an artist, I hope to use my fashion choices to inspire others to embrace their individuality and express themselves creatively.

Looking ahead, what do you hope to achieve with your music, and how do you see yourself continuing to evolve as an artist?

In the future, I hope to continue creating music that challenges and inspires me, while also resonating with listeners. I see myself continuing to evolve as an artist by exploring new sounds and styles, collaborating with other artists, and pushing myself creatively. Ultimately, I hope to leave a lasting impact on the music industry and inspire others to pursue their passions and dreams.

Follow Maria Raquel Thomas on Instagram @mariaraquel\_official.





































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