



Jeangu Macrooy  
'Summer Moon'

*"The songs on this album are very personal; they are a documentation of my journey towards a deep and authentic understanding of love and all that I have learned about love so far."*

A little over a year ago, Jeangu looked outside on a beautiful summer evening and saw a honey-coloured moon hanging low on the horizon. The clouds slowly gave way to a star-spangled, deep blue night. This scene made him a little melancholy; and that night, he lay awake thinking about life, love and how we all try to find happiness through shared experiences. That is what inspired him; the seed had been planted for a new album, which blossomed into his third studio album: 'Summer Moon'. An album that Jeangu created with Bud Kolk, who he met at the Conservatory in Enschede: a friend he made right after coming to the Netherlands in 2014. Back then, he sang in Bud's conservatory graduation project. This time, Jeangu asked Bud to produce his new album.

"Once we'd written the opening track 'Summer Moon', it served as the foundation for the rest of the album. It has a certain mellowness that is very intriguing. You can feel something deeper underneath, a story being told. I want the listener to experience that night. This time, I wanted to establish vibes and atmospheres, and really seek out the nuance."

His first EP and two subsequent albums largely came about during the creative process. This time, he had a vision from the start about what he wanted to make, how and with whom. Competing in the Eurovision Song Contest had everything to do with that. "After Eurovision, I thought: 'now I have a blank sheet of paper that I can fill.' It was an amazing experience, but after two years it felt good to step away from that and get back to writing new music after 'Grow' and 'Birth Of A New Age'. I had to clear my head and start again. That's why those two songs are not on the album. That chapter is over for me."

The songs on 'Summer Moon' are about love 'beyond the honey moon': the inevitable changes a relationship has to undergo in order to survive. On his debut album 'High On You', Jeangu was very much in love, which you can really hear in the songs on that album. That feeling of being head over heels has now evolved into one of a deeper love, which also entails dealing with different points of view that can clash in a relationship. Such as how much freedom you can give one another. "Monogamy is the norm. But in my own relationship, we give each other certain freedoms, while staying open and honest about things. 'Come Back' is about the fear you can experience when you first go into an open relationship. It forces you to self-reflect, but also to have more faith in your unique relationship with a person."

The sequence of the songs on 'Summer Moon' is a journey through the different aspects of a relationship: from the joys of life and euphoria ('Forbidden Fruit') to jealousy and insecurity ('Come Back', 'I Forgive Me') and an escapist longing for adventure ('Paris'). 'A Little Greener', the first single of the album and a duet with rapper Pete Philly, is about paying attention to what you have, while the playful 'Admit It' displays a longing to be seen and appreciated.

Jeangu is never afraid to express himself, no matter the topic - from his orientation to colonial history. And now he has done the same with his perspective on love. "When I express myself authentically, it's seen as a kind of statement, even though it shouldn't be. When I talk about love,

it's love as I experience it. I like the idea that I can have certain conversations with people through music. If there are any stigmas or prejudices about something I sing about, we should always be able to talk about that."

As on the covers of the EP 'Brave Enough' and his debut album 'High On You', the cover of 'Summer Moon' is a self-portrait of Jeangu. When you see them in sequence, you can see his evolution as a person and as an artist. "For me, writing a song or putting together an album is like making a self-portrait. It's a reflection of how I see myself, in all honesty. I see a more mature me now. I am inviting people into my mind, my world."

*'Summer Moon' will be released by Unexpected Records on Friday, 11 November 2022.  
On Thursday, 10 November, Jeangu Macrooy will launch the album with his live band at Bitterzoet in Amsterdam.*

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