

In Pulp’s Fall 2023 issue, you shared another artistic piece titled “Moonlights” and a story called “Nightmare Harvest.” Your submission to this issue is a completely different medium (henna), which you mentioned is a passion of yours in your 2023 interview. What inspired you to share this particular piece, through photography (instead of, for example, a painting)?

I was inspired to share this particular piece because it’s one of my favourite original designs I’ve ever created.

I feel like the whole essence of this picture represents me perfectly. From the florals to every delicate shade of pink. Henna is a huge part of my Pakistani culture and this beautiful art form is my favourite way of celebrating my identity and sharing it with others.

What is your favorite part of this piece? Is there anything in particular you’re proud of?

Probably the overall layout of the design and my signature florals which have been utilized in the large main motif. I also really love the look of the wrist design which features thick leaves that balance well with the overall delicacy of the design.

What is this piece’s “story”? From where did you draw inspiration?

This was a design I did on myself for Eid! Eid is one of the two major holidays celebrated by Muslims and it’s very common to apply henna during this joyous occasion. This piece was a result of exhaustion and happiness. I had been doing henna for my family the entire night and finally applied henna on myself after midnight. I completely freestyled this piece which means that I just created every element as I went!

You’ve mentioned in past interviews that you are a passionate henna artist—a skill beautifully demonstrated in your piece! What (or who) first introduced you to this medium, and when did you start using it as a creative outlet?

I grew up with henna, it’s embedded into every sweet memory and joyous occasion of my childhood. The musky earthy scent of henna paste and the excitement of getting your henna done is an unforgettable experience. I’m one of four girls in my family and it was always hard to find someone to do our henna every Eid, so I was inspired to grab a henna cone and start learning the craft! It wasn’t long until I got absolutely addicted and now 8 years later, I have my own henna business. You can find more of my henna on Instagram @hennabymoon!

Are there any messages or themes you want viewers to pull from your piece?

I want viewers to see the story that lives within my piece and hopefully be inspired to explore this art medium themselves!

How did your creative process differ between “Pretty Pink” and your previous visual art submission to Pulp “Moonlights”?

Art on paper and a henna design on skin requires a completely different creative process. It's easier to pick up a notebook and my pencil kit and start to create but henna is a different story. I find myself planning out what I want to draw for a visual art piece whereas henna comes to me naturally! I make my own henna and the process takes 24 hours. I mix the henna paste, wait for dye release, roll the henna cones, and then fill them before I can even start to create a henna design. Henna requires lots of effort in every step of the process but I find it extremely enjoyable and rewarding!

You have published several prose and poetry pieces in Pulp in the past, as well as a visual art piece. Between these three mediums, which would you say is your go-to? Which do you find yourself turning to most often?

Poetry and Henna without a doubt my favourite mediums.

What first inspired you to begin creating and sharing your work?

Creating is part of my soul. I was inspired to share my work because I don't see many Pakistani artists who dabble in so many mediums, so I hope to inspire others to be adventurous in this regard.

What advice would you give to an aspiring creator?

Create whatever sings to your soul and no matter what the result is- your creations will be beautiful because they represent *you*.