

# Meet Meghan Fest of Gremlin Heart

July 2020

Today we'd like to introduce you to Meghan Fest.

**Meghan, can you briefly walk us through your story – how you started and how you got to where you are today.**

There were two things I knew I wanted in my future from an early age: animals and art. I remember keeping a sketchbook full of cat cartoons and being fully immersed in anything and everything “cat-themed”. I was always drawing and always creating, and always had a cat by my side. It came as no big surprise when I went to the University of Texas at San Antonio for a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts. My thesis was on Kitsch Art, and my artwork was loaded with feline imagery. Fast forward to today, I have created hundreds of pet portraits to honor the furry loved ones in people’s lives. As for my pet bow ties, cat toys, and other cat-lover wearables, this came from having an Instagram Cat of my own.

His name is Pizza and he is a Russian Blue rescue. @thecatnamedpizza is his handle. He is a bow tie aficionado and feline fashionista. Once I had been actively circulating in the Cats of Instagram (COI) Community and getting to know the market and pet trends, I realized it was a way I could combine my interests and talents. Many of the fabrics I use are my own original artwork, and others are curated designs. I also have limited edition pins, patches, and stickers with my own artwork. I mostly sell through Etsy and Instagram platforms, but I can also be found at Pet Conventions and Cat Festivals! This Fall, you can find me at Pop Cats Festival in both Houston and Austin!

**Has it been a smooth road?**

It hasn't always been a smooth road. Part of being a working artist is having to invest a lot of your own time and money into materials, advertising, having your products printed in wholesale batches, and participating in giveaways online to get seen and gain customers. You have to put a lot of trust into the return, knowing that it could be months or years before you start to see any live-able profit. But I think that is part of the beauty of the struggle. It's truly driven by passion and a leap of faith.

**We'd love to hear more about Gremlin Heart.**

I am the artist, creator, maker, and manager for Gremlin Heart. It really operates as an umbrella for an array of projects. This umbrella houses my bow ties, cat toys, and wearables, as well as Meghan Fest Miniatures (where my hand-drawn pet portraits can be ordered), an upcoming children's book I illustrated (inspired by my Instagram cat, Pizza) and co-created with Frank Weysos, as well as Frank and I's fiesta medals, animations, and other creative projects.

I am so proud of the fact that this was built organically from the ground up. My customers have played a huge role in getting Gremlin Heart where it is today, primarily off of word of mouth. I feel like the slow growth over the past few years has formed a solid foundation to go far. One day, I'd like Gremlin Heart to be a creative pet-themed empire housing other artists and creators and branching out into bigger collaborations.



**Meghan**  
Gremlin Heart in San Antonio

**Is our city a good place to do what you do?**

As a Texan artist, I feel like all of our major cities have been doing such a great job to keep the arts thriving and support small businesses. Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio are all so diverse and inspiring. In this difficult time of Covid-19, now more than ever, Small Businesses need resources and support. These major cities and their creative communities have truly banded together and been very supportive. If you look for the opportunities, they are out there.

