



Chella Man

Chella Man (he/him) is a Deaf, genderqueer, trans masc, Chinese, Jewish person born on November 26, 1998 and raised in Pennsylvania. At a young age, Chella recognized that there wasn't a lot of representation out there for folks with identities that reflect his intersections. Therefore, in 2017 Chella started his own Youtube channel to create his own representation and produce videos that covered topics about his personal experiences with gender dysphoria, transness, queerness, his love life, being deaf, and ASL translation videos to popular songs (like "Hot Shower" by Chance the Rapper!). Some video titles are: "I am Proud to be Disabled," "The World Needs a Deaf, Queer Superhero," and "Why I Love My Scars." There's also an hour-long video where Chella was Penn State's keynote speaker in 2020 for an "Open Conversation on Disability, Queerness, and Binaries" with Maya Branch and Marco Planchart.

Chella is also an artist, director, and author of his first book *Continuum* (2021). He has participated in numerous gallery shows and artist residencies internationally, worked as a columnist for *Them.*, signed as the first Deaf and trans-masculine model with IMG Models, was casted as superhero Jericho on the TV series *Titan's*, and launched a radically inclusive clothing line in collaboration with Opening Ceremony. It's so cool to see the numerous art mediums Chella experiments with! If you go to his website at ChellaMan.com, you can see that he draws and paints on anything from a canvas to a shoe to a wall to all types of clothing to his own body. At least 50 people have tattooed his art on their bodies! And I'm really tempted to do so as well :)) Chella's newest project on his website is "Big Deaf" in which he takes phrases that he has typed into an application as a way to preserve his energy from being questioned by hearing people who don't understand that deafness, like all identities, are on a continuum. And Chella does not fit into the stereotype of a deaf person. He speaks without a deaf accent and doesn't always use sign language. So to address and share his struggle, he carved the saved phrases from the app into items from spinach to a joint to Q-tips to a hot dog. And below that gallery is a video of "I Don't Fit into the Deaf Stereotype," which explains his project more. Please check it out and always remember to practice disability justice in the fight towards TGNC liberation!