



# JUNO MAMBA

## FREEDOM

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**Freedom** is the second EP by Naarm/Melbourne artist **Juno Mamba** (real name **Vinci Javier**) and the follow-up to his highly acclaimed debut release **Light Echoes**, which was [hailed](#) as "expansive and unafraid to plunge the depths of human emotion".

A layered and evocative suite that Javier has become synonymous with, **Freedom** revels in the possibilities and the release of creating art, while also exploring the personal heritage of Juno in a way he has not managed to before. **"This music is a representation of the ebbs and flows of my evolution."** An evolution it is... both musical and personal. A definite step up in production and sound, **Freedom** straddles the lines of textural yet emotive dance music.

Opening track and first single **'Siargao Dreams'** is named after the Philippine Islands surfing capital, which Vinci made his first-ever trip to in 2019. Born in nearby Cagayan de Oro and then raised in Ballarat from the age of five, the pilgrimage back to his family's homeland was a chance to explore the history of his father, of which he knew little about. He reveals, **"The emotional connection I felt as soon as I got there was incredible. For the first time, I felt like I**

*belonged and I was free from judgement. I wanted this song to feel exploratory and in a dream-like state."* Musically it picks up where *Light Echoes* left off, rolling drumlines that provides a driving, forceful backbone, while glittering synth melodies peel back the shimmering light within the song, layer by layer.

Other signpost moments of his life are examined on the EP, too. **'1996'** is intended as a snapshot of Vinci as a kid. He recalls *"I can remember that year vividly as a sports fan, because of the Atlanta Olympic Games. Also I was just starting to learn piano, and all I have are happy and naive memories of this time."* It also marks Juno Mamba's first-ever artist collab, with Naarm/Melbourne vocalist **ANTONMOND**. It was an easy fit as Javier puts it; *"I wanted to work with a vocalist who could relate to my story but also interpret it in their own way. I was lucky to have worked with ANTONMOND who was able to deliver powerful lyrics that painted these moments for me as a kid"*. A match made in a warehouse somewhere in heaven, the track is straight 90s rave at its finest. Like an Antipodean nod to artists such as Underworld, Orbital and Chemical Brothers, the fist pumping vocal chant serves as an elegiac ode to the power that memory can hold. ANTONMOND reels off evocative childhood memories (ala *"The sound of thumping basketballs"* because, Vinci points out with a laugh, *"1996 was the year Kobe was drafted"*.) Its propulsive delivery is a happy throwback to 90s rave culture, while nurturing it in a way that makes it all completely his own.

The next track, 'Frequency', like the tracks before, is trademark Juno Mamba in its driving urgency and purpose, with a pulsating Acid undertone. A track that will for sure become an instant live highlight in his full 2-piece live show, 'Frequency' reminds us not only where Javier has come from, but what universe he's building all of his own.

As a curtain call on the immersive listen is the final track **Slow Malady**, which leans on emotion and experience. A more downbeat number on the EP and serving as a beautiful palate cleanser after the rave that was 1996. Referencing the more sombre moments of the likes of Kelly Lee Owens or Daniel Avery, the song builds tiers of synth lines over each other to create climatic building blocks that allow the track to soar to heady heights even within its simplicity. Not only an incredibly emotive listen, the track acts as an aural journey to a very personal story of Javier finding out during his first trip to Siargao that his Papa's health was in a serious condition. He describes this as *"a surreal experience visiting a place where he was born and raised, which I was only starting to discover, then being told this jarring news. I wanted to convey the sense of freedom and positive energy he displayed when I saw him."* This story brings a raw emotion to the subdued highlight of the EP.

Musically, the four songs on *Freedom* demonstrate Juno Mamba's advancing capabilities as a producer as well as musician, able to craft textured electronic sounds for the head and heart, as much as the feet. Mixing two of its four songs himself, Vinci revels equally in its slow-build moments as its headrush highs, and in the freedom its title implies. He surmises, *"The journey has been far from perfect, but I'm in a place of peace."*

Connecting the music visually comes in the form of visual artist Luke Brown, who created the art from Juno Mamba's first EP, *Light Echoes*. *"Creating visuals is an important process for me and it needs to evolve cohesively with the music. Both these elements go hand in hand and because Luke created such a strong visual direction previously, I wanted him to continue to expand on these ideas for my new music. The image selection was a long process, but it was important for me to connect with them. One of the images included in the Siargao Dreams artwork was taken from my trip to the island."*

### **Freedom tracklist:**

1. Siargao Dreams

2. 1996 (feat. ANTONMOND)
3. Frequency
4. Slow Malady

**'1996 (FEAT. ANTONMOND)' IS OUT NOW THROUGH SOOTHSAYER  
AVAILABLE TO STREAM OR PURCHASE [HERE](#)**

***FREEDOM* IS OUT FRI 11 JUNE AND AVAILABLE FOR PRE-SAVE [HERE](#)**

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