

KONY



ISSUE 01

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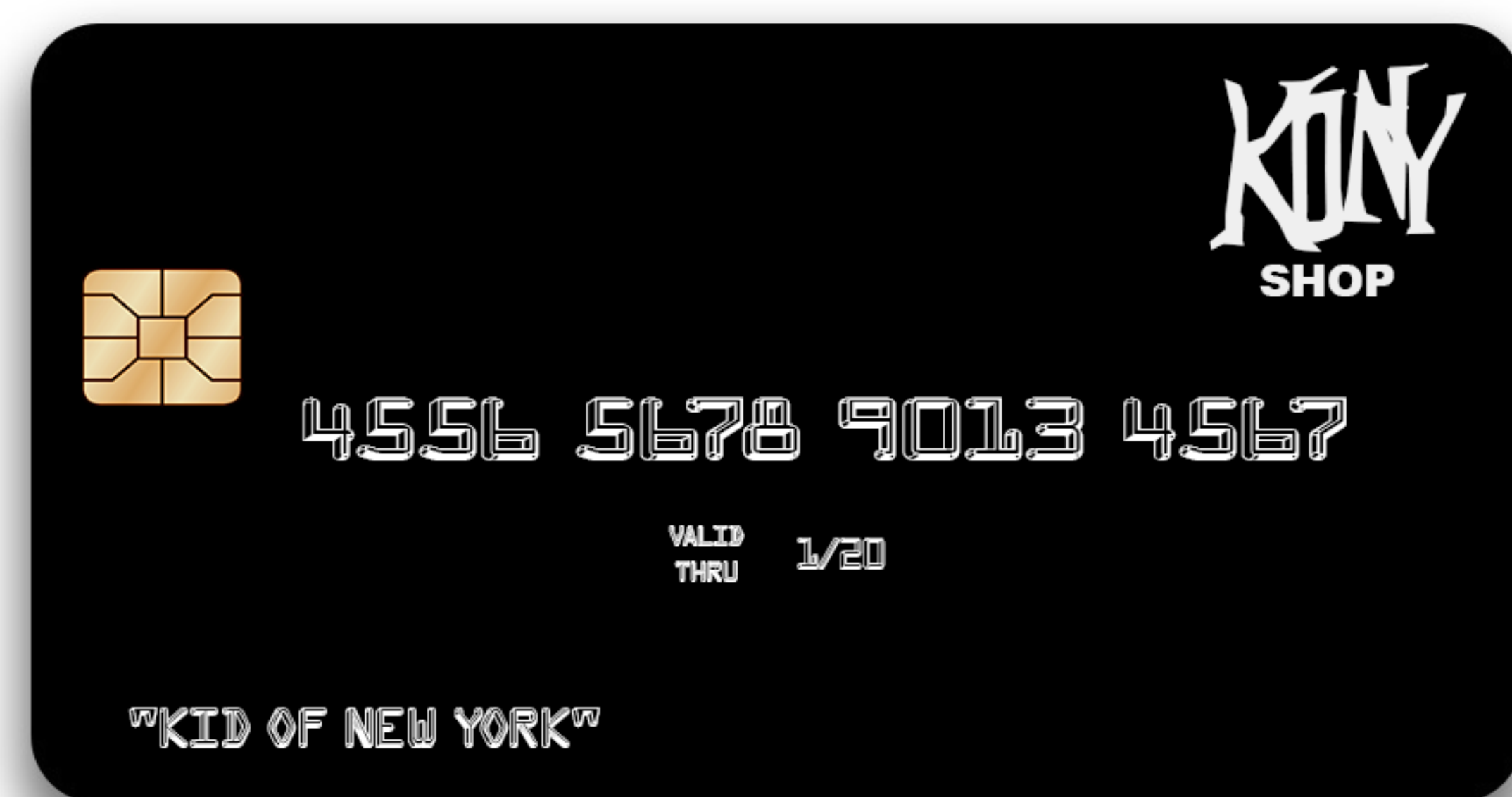
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SEPTEMBER 6TH

SUMMER +OTE ESSENTIALS

Last year was the prime year for fanny packs/bum bags as they made a huge comeback for fashionistas and clothing brands like Supreme to Gucci all the way to fast-fashion retailers, they caught on pretty quick. Although it seems that, the super trend is slowly dying down we have a new bag sister kicking down the doors, and you know we STAN new accessories. If you haven't seen a ton of tote bags this summer you should probably get out the house more often. We know tote bags aren't new to the scene but they are definitely making a fresh impact. So simple but yet it can help your fit go from a solid 7 to a fire 10. The best part about the tote is that it doesn't have to be designer, today Millennials rush to thrift stores all over the city or sometimes aunties closet to start collecting. These things are super convenient and they don't cost much unless you decided to hit barneys and go the luxury route.



Since the Tote is very essential we asked around to our fellow bag wearers and asked what are some of their bag must-haves during this hot summer.



NYC LOCALS

CHECK OUT OUR CITY LOCALS AS THEY'RE IN THE EXPRESS LANE TO THE ROAD OF SUCCESS. DEDICATED AND INSPIRATIONAL. IF YOU'RE LOOKING OUT FOR ANYTHING .. WATCH OUT FOR THEM.

KONY APPROVED

"I can draw inspiration from anything and anywhere. My outfits are less what is the biggest piece i can flex but what makes me feel comfortable and what actually looks good.

Being an entrepreneur has really made me become more responsible. i don't do much partying or going out like i used to in my early teenage years."



ZIANAIR H.

ENTREPRENEUR / OWNER OF VITAL MAGAZINE

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SHOT BY @NIRVANAONEARTH

TANAYA G.

STYLIST

@VO.GUED | @DRESSED BY VO.GUED

“Fashion is another way of expressing everything on the inside of you but on the outside of you. It’s an art that contains a story that each individual in the industry has the chance to tell. It’s our view of the world. Our story.”

“Growing up in New York City I was always exposed to creative people and outlets. You come across creative individuals and have conversations/experiences where you end up seeing things from a different perspective and you mold your own new perspective. As a photographer in the city I became a product of my environment and those around me which helped me find my style. I never stop learning something new about myself because of this city and I don’t think I would be able to say that about any other place.”



CARLOS Y.

PHOTOGRAPHER

@LORDYAMBO

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Esten



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MECCA MONAY MALLORY

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KODAK 400-2TMY

EVILERS

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How do you manage your time between working on your craft, your social life, and your compensation?

It's wild, I work two jobs now. But even before like whenever my friends are here and we're just hanging out I'll just be on the side working. I be chilling I'll watch a movie whenever I feel like watching a movie, listen to music, etc. I have the liberty to do that now that im not too large so I take advantage of it.

Do you ever think about collaborating with other artists?

Yes, I have, I actually did a few collabs. The pintuck iguana jeans were hand-painted by my friend Daniella and constructed by me. A lot of my collaborations are more for utility than they are for design. I have a friend Max, he does embroidery for people we created the cloud sweater, he embroidered that and I designed it. He helped me with the text and everything for that placement. I feel like it's impossible to do anything without collaboration even if you goto the store and buy a piece of fabric somebody still made that fabric, I don't know how to make fabric, I don't know how to weave so yeah those are some of the artists.

Who or what inspires your artistry?

I think I'm inspired by everything, for me personally I don't have a strict process that I follow or a certain way that I do things every time. It's a little more organic. If I see something random, hear a song or if I feel a certain type of way, all of that is translated into clothing that I'm designing but also when I'm designing a piece for someone they're always the inspiration, whether its a character trait or physical trait im trying to have shown more those are the things I pay attention to. Other than that nothing really inspires me.

I'm Eviers D. Innocent, I'm from Haiti originally, I lived there in my early childhood and I moved here around 2nd grade. I've always lived in yonkers since I moved to America. In the past 3 years, I started getting involved in making clothes, I started deconstructing and that's how I learned the basics of making clothes. I went to school for a bit and now im here. Esten is just me trying to save something that is going away in terms of fit and integrity and clothing is not really made for the specific person it's more mass-marketed. I feel like it's not impossible to get something that's like done for yourself but a lot of people in this generation don't know how to go about finding that because most places are deep and for the most part there are older people that the younger customer may not necessarily feel comfortable talking to. Im a young person so, young people want unique things they want custom things that are sized to them, they want to put graphics and motifs that relate to them and I feel like that's just what Esten is, me trying to save that and not have that go away.

When did you realize that you wanted to start a business and actually get into the fashion industry and do your own pieces?

I would say after my second semester, I didn't know I wanted to start a business but I knew I wanted to make clothes for people. At first, I wasn't really charging anyone, first of all, I didn't have the skill level to charge anyone like that so I made clothes for my friends and people that were okay with experimenting with me. Most of the clothes I make now are still free for my friends and of course myself.

What's your future looking like fashion wise?

In 5-10 years I definitely want at least two established studios in an established location people can easily get to in a business setting. One studio out here, one studio outside of America. Right now everything is a little makeshift as you can see but it's cool.

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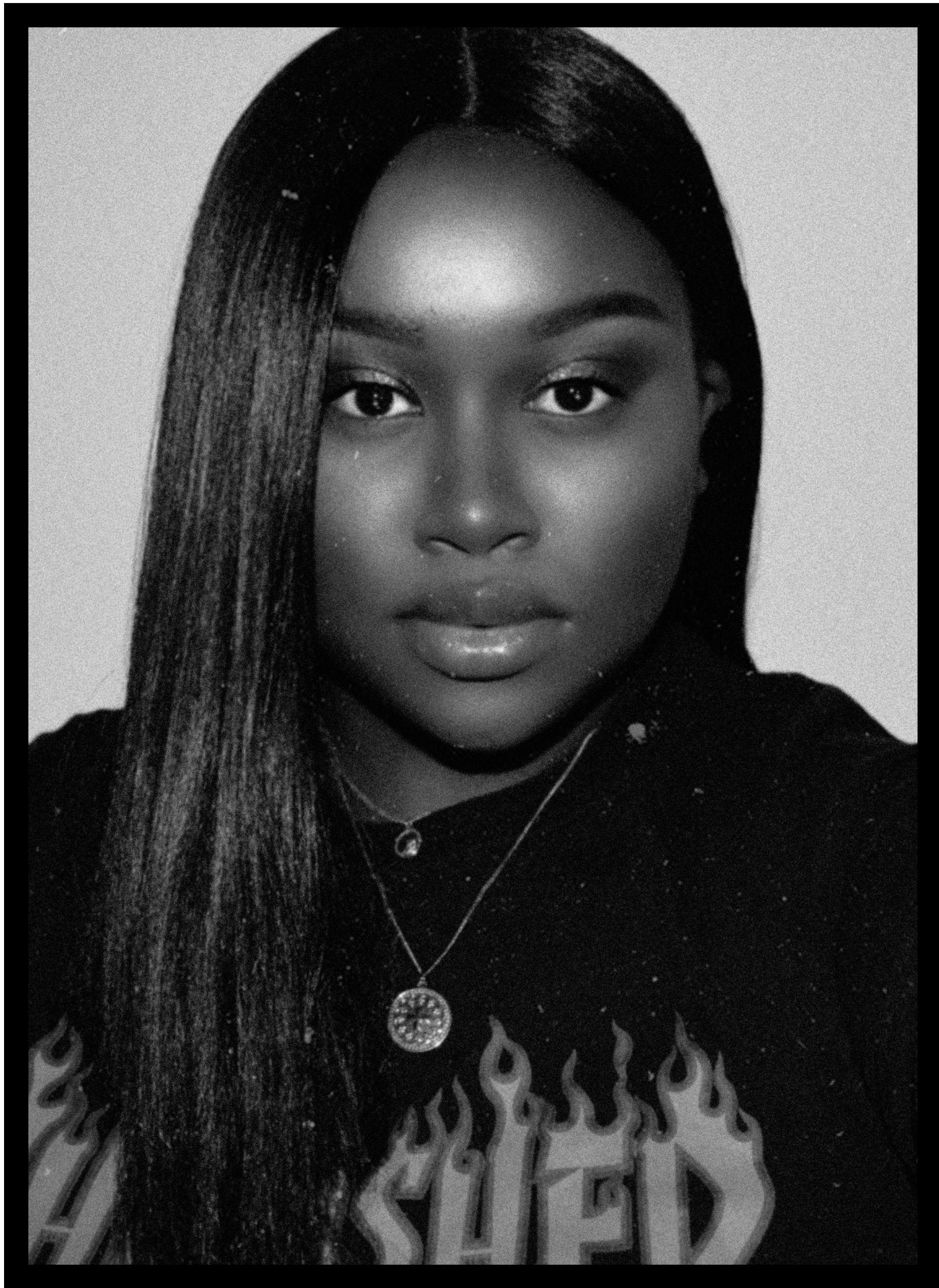
I noticed some music in the background, is there any type of specific music that you listen to when you're about to start sewing or do anything just to get you motivated and get going?

I listen to jazz, specifically Lionel Hampton, RIP, and I also listen to a lot of post-punk and a lot of mid-2000s alternative and I also listen to modern-day underground rap and like trendy shit. Mostly its jazz and post-punk when im getting into strict concentration. Specifically The Cure, Shoutouts The Cure I fuck with The Cure heavy.

The pressure of being creative is always up so how well do you cope with deadlines and the showing of new designs?

Showing of new designs I feel is completely up to me like I don't have deadlines for that but with clients, its a little harder especially when a lot of my clients are accustomed to sitting through fittings and waiting weeks for their clothes so it's kinda hard convincing them but it usually just goes through. The hardest part is the second and third fittings. Let's say there's something still wrong and we're at three fittings already and it can be better and some people don't wanna stretch it that long so a lot of times there's some compromise that's done in terms of fit and certain design elements that could've been better.





MECCA MONAY MALLORY
FOUNDER | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THE EDITORS LETTER

I must say it is so exciting to see all of this finally happening. For years now I’ve been studying fashion and photography while paying close attention to my peers, my fellow designers, photographers, and incredible creatives all over new york city, my home forever. I’ve watched the youth culture shift and change so many times over the course of almost 10 years and im still looking forward to what’s next even if it’s just a tiny adjustment. I came up with the idea for KONY back in high school where I was surrounded by others that were as dedicated and passionate like me so it was refreshing. Unfortunately, we live in a society where popularity wins over talent and it can be super frustrating so the biggest thing I wanted to shine a light on was opportunities. KONY Magazine will be the home for upcoming creatives that need a platform to showcase their work to the world because real talent deserves to be shown off. Through this process, not only have I thought about me but for the most part, I’ve been thinking about others because it all starts with us. If you ever heard of the saying “The youth is the future”, I’ll tell you right now, whoever said that .. wasn’t lying. All it takes is one person to open up 500 more doors for the rest of us. This first issue is dedicated to all the creatives that are slept on, to all of those who dream big and keep pushing no matter what, to those who know their worth. Here’s to all the “Kids of New York” may we strive artistically and kill it all over the world.

My name is Jonathan Abdul, and I’m the Magazine Director for KONY Magazine. My role consists of developing visual style and images that impacts KONYs vision. For our first issue we wanted to shed light on the artistic youth by showcase their pieces in the Mecca of art; New York City. We also wanted to expose our artistic culture to people that aren’t familiar with it. On the other hand, I’m a Apparel Design major at Buffalo State College. My culture exposed me at a young age to art and ever since then, I live for it. My everyday life consists of art even when I don’t think about it. The meaning of art means a lot to me because it shaped who I am today. I’m pretty sure that’s the same story with everybody in KONY and others that enjoy/ dedicate their lives to art. I hope you all enjoy our first issue of KONY Magazine.



My name is Marc, and I am so excited for the release of this first issue. The guys at KONY and I have worked long and hard to make this dream into a reality and we’re so happy to finally be able to present it to you. My part in KONY is the Creative Director of the magazine, which means that I have the task of finding the theme or the “vibe” of each issue and making sure that said theme is clear and cohesive to the readers. In this first issue we wanted to pay homage to where we all grew up, which is New York. In this issue you will see a glimpse of what life is like in the inner city and the different walks of life that exist within the city. Now a little about myself, I currently attend Buffalo State College and major in Fashion and Textile Technology. Ever since I was younger I have always loved the culture and the message fashion conveys through something as simple as clothes. To me fashion is more than just clothing, fashion is art, with many different cultures and time periods intertwining to make something completely new is what drives my love for this craft. I hope that you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed making it.



THE BROOKLYN GIRL

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What and/or Who Inspires You?

LIFE. Just Life, and everyday living, especially growing up in NYC you see so many types of people all around, you see all types of energy. You know? you go through different parts of Brooklyn, you go through different parts of Harlem, different parts of Manhattan and you see so many different types of people you literally become a mixed collage within yourself and then it expresses through your creative outlets. I also believe my BIGGEST inspiration is my mother. Shes really like one of the waviest people, most creative people that I ever met and because she introduced me to so many different creative outlets and getting me into things since I was young between dancing and singing and all types of stuff, and that literally exposed me to so much that I became such a well-rounded individual as well and I'm grateful for that.

What made you start modeling and when did you know you wanted to take it seriously?

Honestly, I realized I had some sort of gift or an attraction to it when I was doing mini photoshoots in my bedroom and all over the house just for fun. I must have been 11 or 12 with my iPod getting dressed up, creating different looks, and putting on my mother's heels and just take photos of myself and it was so fun to see myself in different angles and lighting. Now what really made me take it seriously was when I was 17 and I won a little lottery photoshoot with photographer M3 and that was the very first photo shoot that I've ever done with a photographer. Her seeing and bringing that out of me, and that energy that I exuded during the shoot made me realize yeah I definitely have to take this seriously and I've been doing that ever since.

Being in this industry isn't easy so have you come across any bad experiences yet? And if so how do you plan on getting through some of these obstacles in the future?

The toughest obstacle that I've had and I'm still trying to overcome is the fact that I'm not the tallest model out here I'm not 5'8 or 5'9 I'm a calm 5'6 and I do have long legs but I've been turned down by an agency, I remember I booked a meeting with an agency and they loved me but they told me the reason its not gonna work out is because they feel like I'm gonna have a hard time getting jobs because I'm on the shorter side. I feel because of that people overlook me as a model but that just forces me to keep pushing and going harder until I hear that one "YES!" so it's alright.

Is there anybody in the modeling industry that has influenced you?

Definitely my sis Aweng, she took me under her wing and showed me this level of professionalism that i could reach when it comes to modeling, from learning how to write proper emails to different agencies, to booking different gigs and linking me up with different designers she was the one to really push me. I feel like when you're blossoming as a model sometimes you don't see certain things in yourself that somebody else might see and that's where she comes in.



INDY MARIE



How do you feel about the controversy of the size o debate in the industry?

I feel like nowadays in society women need other women, in companies or brands that look like them, that represent them so that they know that “I can do this too” or “I can have that same level of confidence and that same level of energy that this model is having because look at her she looks just like me”. It’s so hard now especially when the whole world is telling you, you shouldn’t look like this, you shouldn’t look like that, you shouldn’t be this big, and all this negative criticism. Today it can be so hard to love yourself because you go on Instagram you go on these social media platforms and you see all these women who get work done on their bodies to get whatever looks aesthetically pleasing to what society’s norm is. Everybody needs to see themselves in higher roles to elevate themselves and make themselves feel better, that’s what we need from the industry.

What are the fashion trends you loved this spring/summer 2019?

Neon Green. Ive always had trouble figuring out what was my color, in terms of what colors make my skin pop, what colors bring out my eyes, etc. Girl when i threw on that little neon green bikini and the neon wig i realized Neon green was really my color.

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Where do you see yourself and your career 10 years from now?

Well 10 years from now I’m gonna be 29 so for one, I’ll already be a highly successful established model for sure. I want to open up my own brand/clothing line, maybe a collection I’ll do with another brand or I’ll branch out and do my own thing. I’m not gonna do clothes, I’m a high heel fanatic I absolutely love high heels, so it’ll be exclusively unique and just out of this world type heels. By that time I want so many investments that I’m literally making money while I sleep. Also, maybe I can start a little family or something. I definitely don’t see myself still living in new york, the goal is to move out the country but I would most likely have houses in different parts of the world.

What are some of the things you do to stay positive and focused throughout the day and/or week? Mentally or Spiritually? Do you have a routine?

In this day in age its so easy to get wrapped up in social media that sometimes we forget that we don’t need to be connected 24/7 so one thing I do is put my phone on Do Not Disturb or turn it off for an hour, sit with myself, meditate, write in my journal you know? Just self affirmations, there’s actually a book that my mom put me on to its called “Acts of Faith: Daily Meditations for People of Color” by Iyanla Vanzant, its such a bomb book it literally tells you a little excerpt for every single day and gives you a different proverb and explains it so if you take time to read one of those its definitely helpful.





♒
AQUARIUS

SNEAKER HOROSCOPE

AUGUST

BY MARC MERCHANT



♈
ARIES



♉
TAURUS



♓
PISCES



♋
CANCER



♌
LEO



♊
GEMINI



♎
LIBRA



♏
SCORPIO



♍
VIRGO



♐
CAPRICORN



♐
SAGITTARIUS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALBERTO LAINEZ

FIND YOUR SHOE

AQUARIUS: AIR JORDAN 1 RETRO HIGH OG “TURBO GREEN”

PISCES: AIR JORDAN 4 WMNS “SILT RED”

ARIES: ADIDAS YEEZY BOOST 700 V2 GEODE

TAURUS: CACTUS PLANT FLEA MARKET X NIKE WMNS VAPORMAX

GEMINI: COMME DES GARCONS X NIKE SHOX TL

CANCER: OFF-WHITE X NIKE ZOOM TERRA KIGER 5 BLACK

LEO: OFF-WHITE X NIKE AIR PRESTO

VIRGO: AIR JORDAN 1 RETRO HIGH OG PINE GREEN

LIBRA: OFF-WHITE X NIKE BLAZER MID

SCORPIO: SUPREME X COMME DES GARCONS X NIKE AIR FORCE 1 LOW

SAGITTARIUS: NIKE AIR FEAR OF GOD 1

CAPRICORN: A-COLD WALL X NIKE AIR FORCE 1 LOW

EMPIRE STATE OF



ADELANO

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KWAME KISSI

Tell me a little bit about yourself: Where are you from? How old are you? What do you do?

I am from Nigeria, spent time in my younger years in Brooklyn, but not enough to claim I was from there because I spent most of my life in Jersey. I'm currently in school getting my masters for health and administration, I start my doctorate program next fall. Then, I have been an influencer for the better part of three years now I started around spring of 2016. My best friend, brother pretty much, is a designer and I would just go to events with him and I wasn't trying to look "bummy" or out of place so Then, I started putting more consideration into what I put on and it started taking a life of its own.

How do you think NYC has made an impact on you as far as fashion goes?

I am in New York pretty much every weekend at this point. Sometimes, if I have business there. I think it affects me because it keeps me grounded, lets me know how much more work needs to be done. You get into more different circles and you say "okay," in this circle, you're at the top and in this circle, you're not even qualified to be in the group yet. It keeps me grounded, hungry, and pushing like there's still more to achieve, more places to get, and push the limit on your creativity.

How would you describe your style in three words?

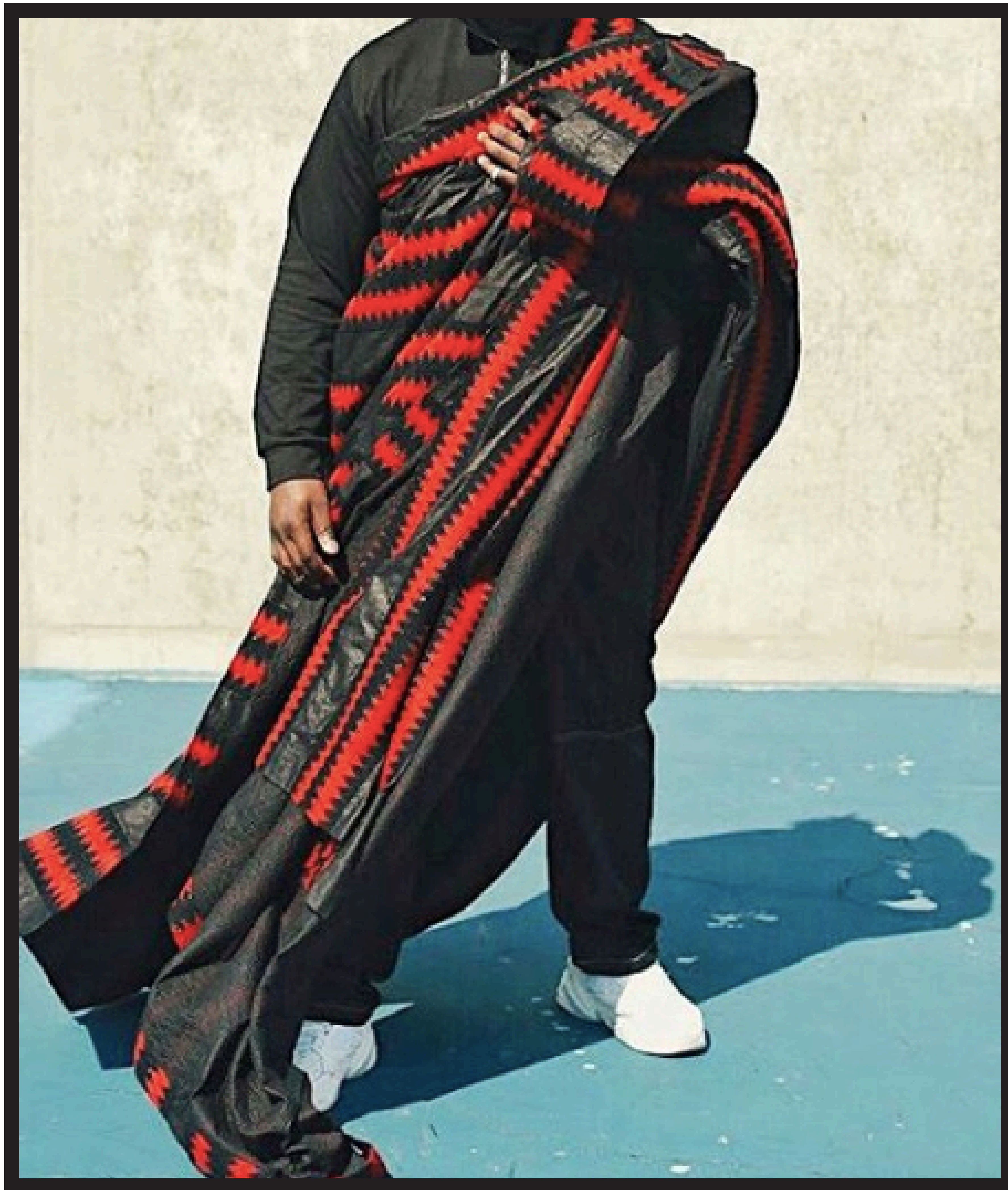
I would say 90's high fashion and what I mean by that is my fits are 90's-based so most of my tees are 90's style, but there is a hint of high fashion. I'm not really into hypebeast even though I might wear some hypebeast sneakers I'm not really focused on that, it's too commercial. Every time I leave, I don't want to look like somebody else. That's what drives me, but I don't have any fashion people I look up to in terms of style. So that helps me in that regard.

What does the fashion and photography industry need more of? Less of?

I think people should understand the difference between things that look good and things that do not. There are things that are good fits and things that aren't a fit that's unique, sometimes People need to understand the difference between are you dressing good or are you dressing to fit your aesthetic? I'm a big conveyer of content. Content over status ALWAYS, I always collab with people that either have 1,000 followers or 5,000 followers it doesn't matter to me ... If your content is fire, then that's what I pay attention to. In the industry, I think brands should pay more attention to that content over clout or status because at the end of the day, that's what identifies and/or characterizes not how many followers you have.

Let's talk about Instagram and social media, how its such a huge platform for social media influencers and others trying to make their mark. How do you go about social media and content? How does it help you?

One of my friend's always told me your social media is your biggest cosign and, I didn't really understand it until I really thought about it. You reach out to brands and hit them up saying "who's this?" and then they look at the page and they're like okay like now I understand the dynamic that we're speaking of So, I think it kind of allows me in the room to speak to certain brands and kind of establish a connection and actually I think the followers allows me access to be an influencer and work with other people who brands wouldn't see because their following isn't there yet. I work with the same people usually and their followers mean to a lot to me as far as content so I think in the same way it's allowed me to elevate myself and help connect people who may not be seen because they're following dictates that they shouldn't be when their quality of content is usually screaming they should be in the same room.



What brand or brands inspires and motivates you to be yourself? Do you have any?

No, not really because I don't really mainstream shop for clothes like I don't shop in the mall anymore, I usually either thrift or wear clothes that are sent to me. Mostly, black-owned brands, just stores where I've met the people online, one-on-one's, and local brands. There are no big brands that I really use at this stage. It's a lot of different things, there's really no one big brand that I look up to for inspiration.



Do you have any fashion figures that you look up to?

I don't have anyone I look up to, but people that I think that are tough and that really do it would be Joey BADA\$\$ and Jaden Smith. I think that would be it. They are top two that I really like. Joey BADA\$\$ has a lot of 90's inspiration off of his clothes. Jaden Smith really doesn't care as in he wears what he wants, and people can say whatever they want that's why I like his daringness and inability to not care what other people are speaking on terms of fashion. I think components, as well as his general sense of style really sits well with me.

What is your go-to accessories?

I like rings a lot, rings are my biggest thing. I'm getting into chains, but I think rings are my biggest. Rings are my go-to accessory. I, also, like bags. I don't think a jacket would be called an accessory, maybe it is. Rings and bags are my go-to accessories that I really like.

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