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Artificial Intelligence











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Artificial Intelligence

Issue 12 - 2024

13 Publishers Notes	68 Face The Runway
18 Sneak	72 Kubra Karakas
20 Rob Burns	76 Snarkeez
28 Edwin Borquez Pierrot	80 Luko Marion
34 Yuliya Urban	84 TygerianLace
39 Inclusion and Diversity	90 Adrian Tapia
41 Beauty is Perfection	91 Michelle Roxana
47 Madeline Sonnendecker	96 Laurence Logan
52 Macie Mincey	100 Lana Bepalov
54 Brandy Byers	106 Breonna Collier
56 Lori Alessandrini	108 Crowned in Curl
58 Beck Bags	112 Tina Quizon
60 Nadia Rhodes	114 Hannah Morgan
64 Chandler	

THE FACE

MAGAZINE

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

The Face Magazine is beyond thrilled to make its return! It's been a challenging journey to get back on track since the disruptions caused by COVID-19, but the passion and dedication of our team, fans, and supporters have made this moment possible. Since our first issue debuted in 2014, we have grown alongside a dynamic and ever-evolving fashion industry. Today, we are proud to present our highly anticipated 12th issue, themed Artificial Intelligence.

This issue is particularly special to us because it delves into a pressing question in today's creative world: Will AI take over the fashion industry? As technology rapidly advances, we wanted to explore how AI might shape the future of fashion. In this issue, we've interviewed three photographers and three digital creators, each offering their unique perspective on AI's role in fashion. Is it a tool to enhance creativity, or could it be the end of fashion as we know it? These conversations promise to spark thoughtful reflection on what lies ahead.

In addition to our focus on AI, we are celebrating the long-awaited return of Face the Runway, our fashion show production division. Inside, you'll find a detailed review of our first show since the pandemic, held on December 30th, 2023. It was a spectacular event that highlighted the resilience and talent within the industry.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Renee Jones, Store Manager of Dillard's South Park in Charlotte, NC. We were absolutely thrilled when Dillard's came on board as our Title Sponsor. Working with their team has been an incredible experience, and their support has been instrumental in bringing this issue to life.

We hope you enjoy our newest edition, and we look forward to continuing our mission to shine a spotlight on the extraordinary talent in the fashion world.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

Andre Michael

Publisher/Owner

The Face Magazine

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THE FACE

MAGAZINE



Artificial Intelligence

THE UNIVERSE

Eddie Jachimowicz on the Future of AI in **is the Limit:** *Fashion Photography*

Eddie sat in his studio, surrounded by an array of digital screens, each displaying vivid, otherworldly fashion images. A pioneer in the realm of AI digital creation, Eddie has been at the forefront of merging artificial intelligence with fashion photography, pushing the boundaries of what is possible in the industry.

"Fashion photography has always been about concepts," Eddie began, his voice filled with enthusiasm. "The clothing, the environment, and the narrative all come together to form a cohesive statement. With the advent of digital photography and tools like Photoshop, we've seen a significant transformation in how we create and manipulate images. But now, with AI, we're on the cusp of something even more revolutionary."

Eddie's work exemplifies this shift. Using sophisticated AI platforms, he creates environments and scenarios that were once unimaginable. "It used to be that 'the sky is the limit,'" he said, a hint of a smile playing at his lips. "Now, it's more like 'the universe is the limit.' AI allows us to craft entire worlds that defy the laws of physics and reality. This opens up new avenues for creativity and storytelling in fashion."

One of the most exciting prospects he sees is the personalization of fashion advertisements. "Imagine seeing a denim jacket worn by a virtual model in a rugged desert landscape," he explained. "But your neighbor sees the same jacket on a race car driver speeding through the icy plains of Iceland. AI can tailor these experiences to individual viewers, creating a more engaging and personal connection with the brand."

However, Eddie acknowledges that this technology could fundamentally alter the fashion industry, particularly for traditional photographers and creative teams. "For high-end fashion brands like Dior, Gucci, and Chanel, there will always be a place for human creativity. A creative team is essential for crafting the unique, high-quality images these brands are known for. But for everyday fashion, AI-generated content might become the norm."

Eddie envisions a future where the production process for fashion campaigns is drastically streamlined. "In a traditional photoshoot, once the images are captured and

approved, they become the cornerstone of the campaign. If the images don't resonate with the target audience, it's costly and time-consuming to reshoot. With AI, we can easily tweak or completely change parts of an image, making the process faster and more cost-effective."

Despite the potential efficiencies, Eddie remains cautious about the complete replacement of traditional photography. "It's difficult to predict exactly how this will play out. We might see the emergence of AI photographers, but I believe a hybrid approach is more likely. Traditional photographers will still be vital, especially as we work to refine AI platforms to offer more control and customization."

Currently, AI platforms like Midjourney are still evolving. "As a photographer, I want to control the lighting, angles, and overall composition. These elements are crucial to the final image, and right now, AI platforms don't offer the level of precision we need. The results can be unpredictable, often relying more on luck than the AI's inherent quality."

Eddie sees the current state of AI as a steppingstone. "The best we can do now is use AI to enhance traditional images. AI can take an existing photograph and create new, similar images, but they will never be exact replicas. This intermediate stage is where we are now, and it's where the most exciting developments are happening."

As AI technology continues to advance, Eddie is optimistic yet realistic about its integration into fashion photography. "The fashion industry might not be the largest market driving AI development, but it is certainly one of the most innovative. We will see more specific tools and platforms emerge, tailored to our unique needs. For now, we embrace this hybrid model, combining the artistry of traditional photography with the limitless possibilities of AI."

In his studio, Eddie returned to his screens, each flickering with vibrant, AI-generated landscapes. "The future is here," he said, almost to himself. "And it's more incredible than we ever imagined"

Digital Creator
@eddies_ai_creations







REVEALING THE MYSTIQUE

Where Classic Speakeasy Meets Modern Sophistication of Sneak

Nestled within the Elizabeth neighborhood of Charlotte, Sneak beckons patrons into a realm where the charm of a traditional Speakeasy intertwines seamlessly with contemporary flair. Born from a desire to carve out a hidden gem catering to a mature clientele, Sneak exudes an air of sophistication and exclusivity, setting itself apart as a sanctuary for those seeking intimate conversations and refined libations.

As guests step into Sneak, they are greeted by softly dimmed lighting that casts a warm glow across the space, creating an atmosphere that is both inviting and intimate. The lounge's design, characterized by bespoke aesthetics, adds an artistic touch to every corner, inviting patrons to linger and indulge in the sensory experience that awaits them.

Despite facing challenges during its inception, including hurdles related to permitting and alterations in food programs, Sneak persevered, ultimately emerging as a beacon of elegance and refinement. While the discontinuation of food services prompted a shift in focus towards the cocktail program, it only served to enhance Sneak's commitment to quality and hospitality.

At the heart of Sneak lies the Sneak Society Membership program, offering exclusive access to a world of privileges and experiences tailored to elevate each visit. From VIP events to personalized service, members are invited to immerse themselves in the luxury and sophistication that define the Sneak experience.

Beyond its role as a lounge, Sneak serves as a dynamic venue for brand launches and creative events, curated to ignite the senses and stimulate the imagination. With a unique music program set to launch soon, Sneak promises to be a hub of innovation and excitement, where every visit is an opportunity to discover something new and unexpected.

As patrons depart Sneak, they carry with them not just the memory of a night well spent, but a sense of satisfaction knowing they have experienced something truly exceptional. In a city bustling with activity, Sneak stands as a testament to the enduring allure of the Speakeasy tradition, reimagined for a modern audience.

In a world where connections are fleeting and experiences often lack depth, Sneak offers a respite—a place where time slows down, and moments are savored. Whether seeking solace after a long day or looking to mingle in a vibrant yet intimate setting, patrons can find refuge within the walls of Sneak, where every detail is meticulously curated to ensure an unforgettable experience.

Sneak represents more than just a lounge—it is a destination, a haven, and a celebration of the finer things in life. As Charlotte's social landscape continues to evolve, Sneak remains steadfast in its commitment to providing patrons with a sanctuary where they can indulge their senses and connect with others in an atmosphere of elegance and refinement.

Written by Michael Wilson for The Face Magazine
Photography by: Travis "Church" @seven.ninevision
www.sneakclt.com
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ROB BURNS

AI and Traditional Fashion Photography

In the heart of Los Angeles, amidst the bustling energy of fashion studios and photo shoots, Rob Burns stands as a seasoned photographer and retoucher. With years of experience capturing the essence of style and elegance, Rob's keen eye for detail and artistic touch has made him a respected figure in the industry. However, as technology advances, he finds himself at the intersection of traditional photography and the burgeoning influence of artificial intelligence in fashion design.

"AI-driven fashion design is poised to revolutionize the industry," Rob asserts with a mix of excitement and contemplation. He elaborates on how AI has the potential to enhance creativity, efficiency, and personalization in unprecedented ways. "Over the next five years, AI will likely integrate more deeply into the design process, from generating innovative concepts to creating virtual fashion shows. This technology can analyze trends, predict consumer preferences, and produce unique designs quickly, reducing the time and cost associated with traditional methods."

Despite the impressive capabilities of AI, Rob remains steadfast in his belief that traditional fashion photography holds irreplaceable value. "AI-generated fashion images, while increasingly sophisticated and capable of producing stunning visuals, are unlikely to fully replace the artistry and authenticity of traditional fashion photography. The nuanced interplay of lighting, composition, and the photographer's vision often results in images that resonate deeply with viewers."

Rob envisions a collaborative future where AI tools serve to complement rather than compete with human photographers. "AI can enhance image editing, optimize shoot planning, and personalize marketing strategies. It can suggest innovative ideas and expand the realm of what is artistically achievable. However, the unique human touch, creativity, and emotional depth that traditional fashion photography brings are elements that AI cannot entirely replicate."

In discussing the practical benefits of AI in fashion design, Rob highlights the ability of AI to rapidly produce and iterate on countless design concepts.

"AI can analyze vast amounts of data to predict consumer preferences and market trends, leading to highly personalized and targeted designs. Additionally, AI-generated designs can be seamlessly integrated into virtual and augmented reality environments, allowing consumers to experience and interact with fashion in innovative ways."

Yet, Rob is aware of the challenges that come with integrating AI into the traditional fashion photography space. Concerns about job displacement, the loss of human artistry, and the potential for over-reliance on technology are significant issues. "Photographers and other industry professionals may fear that AI could undermine their creative roles or replace them altogether. The unique artistic vision and emotional depth that human photographers bring to their work could be difficult to replicate with AI."

To address these challenges, Rob advocates for viewing AI as a collaborative tool. "Industry professionals should be trained to harness AI's capabilities to enhance their work, allowing them to focus on the more creative and nuanced aspects of photography. Establishing clear ethical guidelines and maintaining a balance between technological assistance and human creativity can ensure that AI serves as an empowering addition rather than a disruptive force."

Rob's vision of the future is one where AI and traditional photography coexist symbiotically, blending technological precision with human creativity. "AI can automate routine tasks like editing, color correction, and background removal, allowing photographers to concentrate on the artistic aspects of their work. AI-generated models and virtual fashion can be integrated into photo shoots, offering endless possibilities for creative experimentation without the constraints of physical logistics."

This collaborative approach, according to Rob, can lead to more efficient production processes, greater creative freedom, and the ability to produce visually stunning and highly personalized fashion content. "Ultimately, AI-driven fashion design and traditional fashion photography will evolve together, pushing the boundaries of the fashion industry and enriching it with new dimensions of creativity and innovation."

As the conversation winds down, Rob's optimism is palpable. "The future of fashion photography is bright," he concludes, "with AI and traditional methods working hand in hand to create a more innovative and dynamic fashion landscape. It's an exciting time to be part of this industry, and I can't wait to see where this journey takes us."

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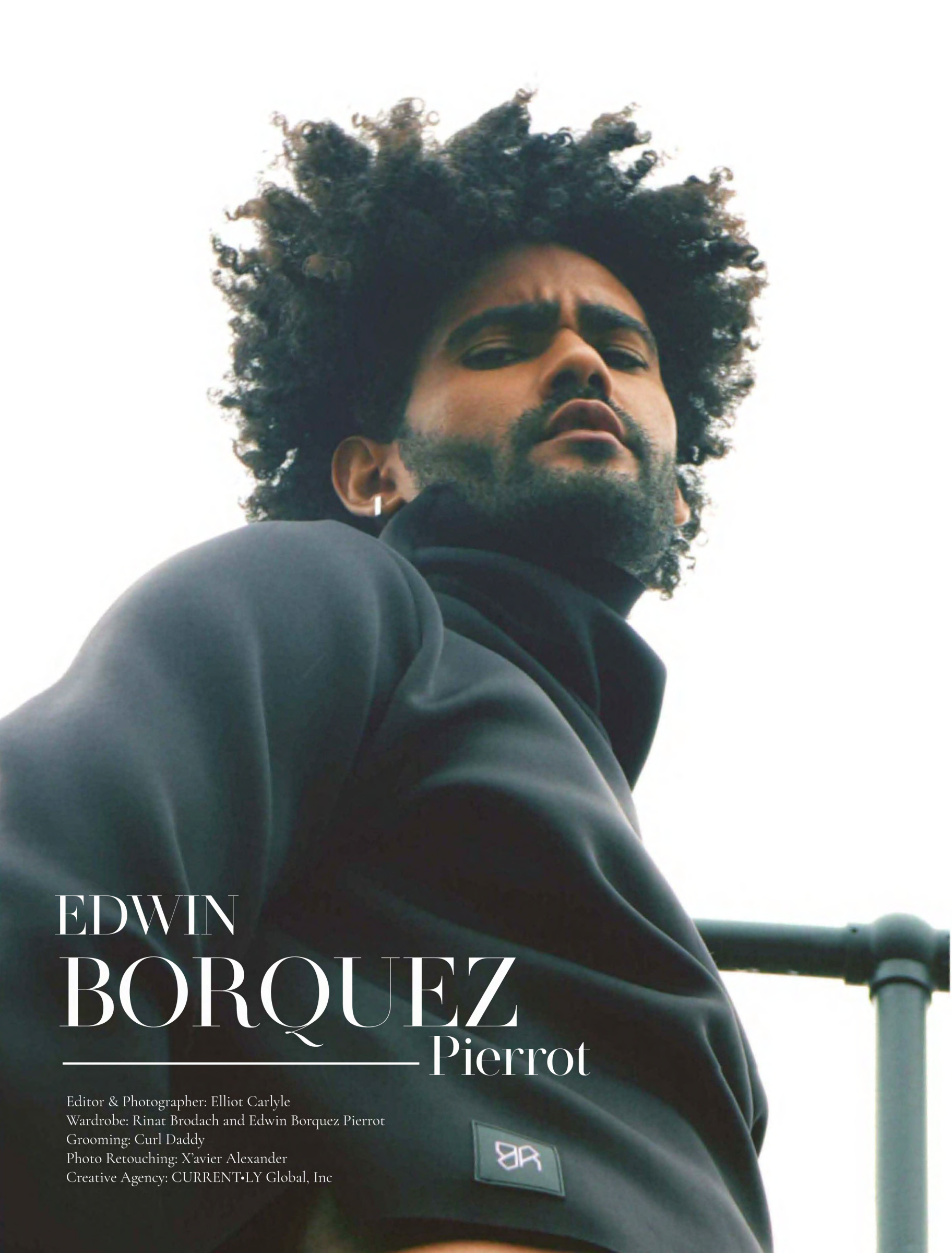
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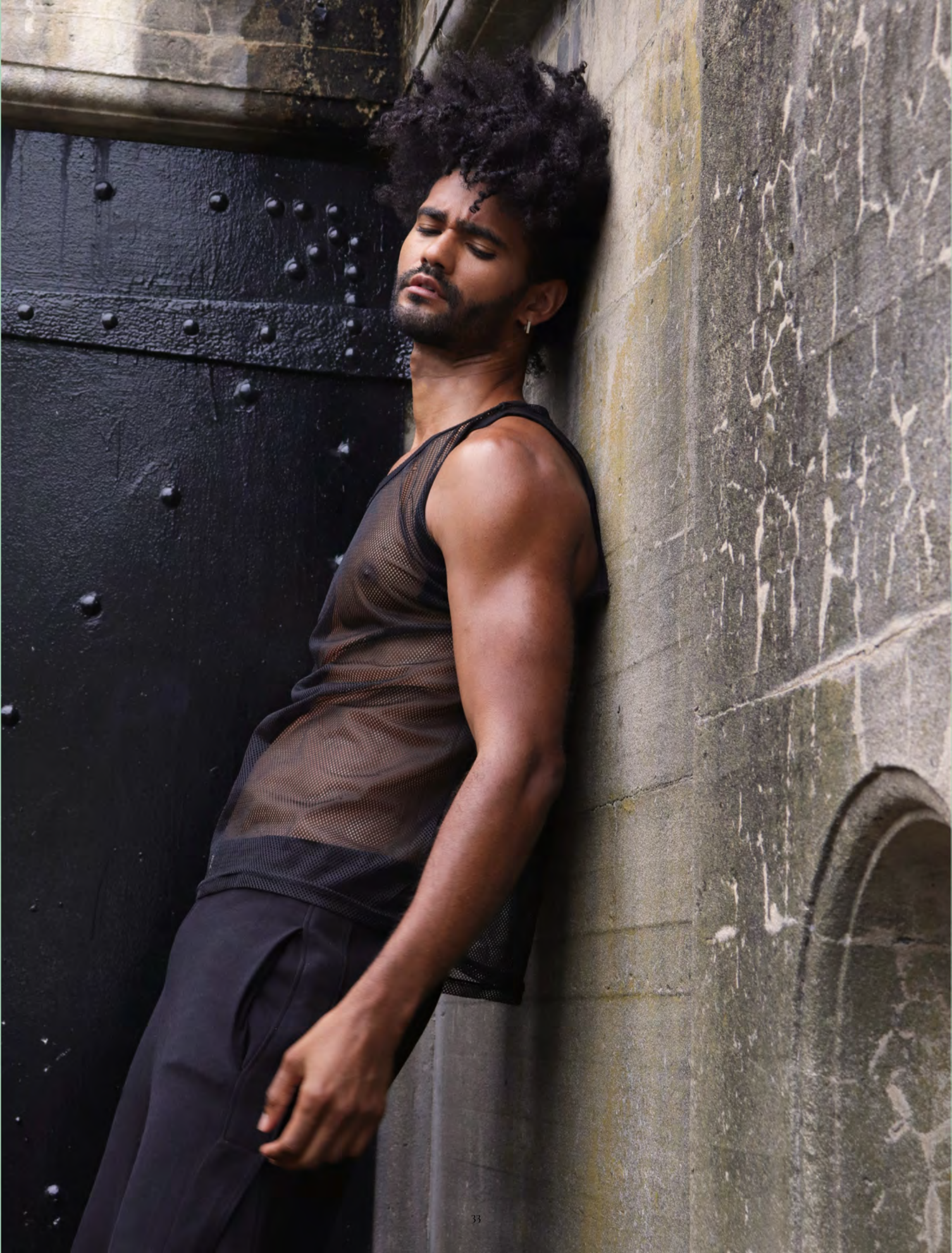
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YULIYA URBAN

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1st Look: (color images)
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Boots - Staud
Earrings - All Saints

2nd look: White Shredded Shirt/Dress
T-shirt Dress - Rick Owens
Boots - Dries Van Noten
Earrings - Vintage

3rd look: (White box leather dress)
Dress - Zadig Voltaire
Boots - Prada
Earrings - Vintage











INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Is Where The Beauty Is At

As a model of 25+ years, I've noticed a positive change going on in the media as well as in the modeling and fashion industry. It is becoming more inclusive and diverse and the "standard" of beauty is shifting. There has been a noticeable difference in what it was compared to what it is becoming.

Although the industry has often carried a negative stigma, there are people now using their platforms and pioneering to change that. I am one of those people. I only participate in fashion shows that are inclusive and diverse and do my best to support people and businesses that are helping to advocate and break down these unhealthy and unfair barriers. Thanks to the many stars, designers, and companies with the larger platforms and social media presence, who are taking a stand for this very important message, it is helping to bring awareness to the problem. It's helping to get people's attention and positive change is taking place.

We are now seeing women and men of all shapes, sizes, and color grace the runways, magazines, and television. The days of models having to be a standard height, age, body type, and seeing mostly "white" are thankfully changing. The goal is to see companies, designers, and the industry using diversity in a genuine way, not just a way to target and market. Not making anyone feel like the "token" but better yet, feeling truly included and welcomed.

We want to see more people feeling comfortable in their own skin (flaws and all) being applauded and not criticized. We want to see more people with disabilities who have long been fighting their way into the fashion world to feel included and beautiful! The hope is to continue to see less omission and sameness and more unity and oneness!

As we start to see the shift and acknowledge the positive changes being made, we still have a long way to go. The

truth is, everyone is beautiful in their own way and deserves an opportunity to feel beautiful and accepted! As these boundaries start to dissolve, and more change continues to take place, we will hopefully continue to see more and more progress. We must continue to communicate the importance of diversity, inclusion and belonging, but also create a comfortable space for people to talk about it. To recognize unintentional or intentional bias and create a move towards making people feel valued and included. Afterall, inclusion is where the beauty is at!



Written by: Tiffany Lewis
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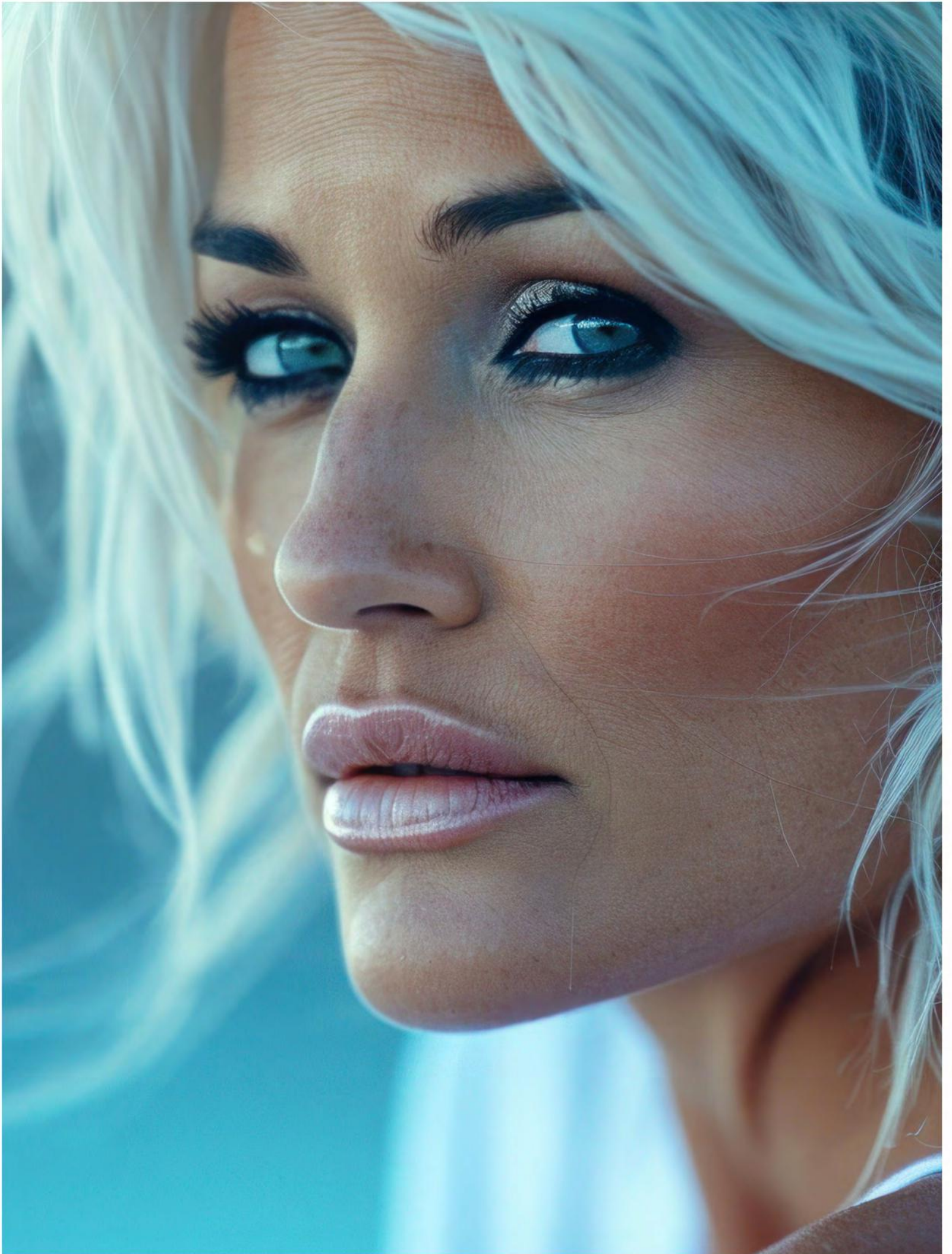
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MACIE MINCEY

The Mom Behind Mom Juice Wine

Nestled in the heart of North Carolina, Macie Mincey is a vibrant blend of mother, investor, wife and entrepreneur. Alongside her business partner Kristin Taylor, she co-founded Mom Juice Wine, a brand that quickly became a favorite for those seeking a much deserved, glass of luxury. Macie's commitment to blending motherhood with business shines brightly through every bottle.

Macie's life pulses with energy, evident from her lively Instagram and interactive website. Together with her husband and four children, she represents the spirit of the modern family, where tradition meets innovation. This solid family foundation significantly shapes her business pursuits, rooting her work in community and simplicity.

Her entrepreneurial mindset was nurtured by a childhood surrounded by strong women, who championed hard work and resilience. These early influences led to the creation of her first technology company that was eventually acquired and now to the four-year-old winery, Mom Juice. Mom Juice started as an idea that was hardly pieced together. Through consulting, Macie and Kristin eventually grew a bond that turned into a business partnership. The name stemmed from the joking nature of mother's saying "oh no honey, don't drink that. That's mommy's juice".

Beyond the vineyard, Macie also hosts the OnlyMoms Podcast, a platform where she and other mothers share insights, laughter, and the real stories behind balancing it all. This extension of her brand offers another layer of connection and support to her community.

Macie is committed to excellence, working closely with vintners to select the finest grapes, ensuring each bottle of Mom Juice Wine delivers both quality and comfort. "Our goal isn't just to make wine; it's to forge moments of joy and connection. It's also important for women to know what is going into their body, so we have committed to being that better for you brand that you can turn to, including ingredient transparency on the back of our labels," she stresses.

Her journey through the business landscape is diverse. After a seven-year tenure at Wells Fargo, where she

advanced through the ranks and revitalized teams, Macie ventured into startups, captivated by their unpredictable nature. "Life's too short not to turn chaos into cash and bedtime stories into business plans," she explains. Her career also includes a stint in tech and consulting, rounding out her extensive experience in finance. She's also a member of Golden Seeds in NYC, an organization focused on investing in women-led businesses with high potential.

Motherhood remains at the core of Macie's identity. She often shares snippets of her family life online, from bedtime tales to kitchen dance parties, showcasing a home brimming with love. "Being a mother reaches you patience and creativity. It's the toughest and most rewarding role I've taken on," she admits.

Managing a burgeoning business while keeping family first is a delicate balance. Macie is grateful for her husband's support and a tight-knit group of friends that help her maintain this equilibrium. "Every day is about balance. Some days are tougher, but a strong support network is crucial," she notes.

Looking ahead, Macie is eager to continue the growth of Mom Juice and continue encouraging mothers to chase their dreams. "I aim to demonstrate that you can succeed in business while being a present parent. It's challenging, but with determination and love, it's achievable," she affirms.

For those interested in a taste of Macie's entrepreneurial spirit, Mom Juice is available at select Target stores throughout NC and CO. You can also find them throughout select markets in Total Wine and Safeway. Through her business and personal life, Macie Mincey exemplifies how to turn daily challenges into opportunities, not just building a brand but celebrating the complex beauty of life. Each bottle of Mom Juice is a tribute to resilient, joyful mothers everywhere, echoing Macie's philosophy of life lived fully and passionately.

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BRANDY BYERS

Balancing Business and Family

In the bustling world of entrepreneurship, where every decision holds weight and every moment counts, finding a balance between professional pursuits and personal obligations can often feel like walking a tightrope. Yet, amidst the chaos, there are individuals like Brandy Byers, whose journey serves as a testament to the resilience and determination required to navigate the intricate dance of managing both business and family with grace.

In a candid interview with *The Face* magazine, Brandy Byers opens up about her pursuit of entrepreneurship, inspired by the indomitable spirit of her grandparents, who served as shining beacons of success with their own business ventures spanning over four decades. Their legacy, marked by unwavering dedication and unyielding resolve, laid the foundation for Byers to embark on her own entrepreneurial odyssey.

However, it was a pivotal moment in her personal life that propelled Byers into action. The diagnosis of her daughter with Autism served as a wake-up call, prompting Byers to reassess her priorities and seize control of her time. "My children are my Why," she affirms, emphasizing the profound influence of motherhood on her entrepreneurial journey.

Navigating the delicate balance between business commitments and maternal responsibilities has been an ongoing challenge for Byers. Yet, she embraces this duality as a lifestyle, seamlessly integrating her children into her day-to-day endeavors. Whether it's accompanying her on showings or sharing meals while she attends to contracts, Byers believes in leading by example, instilling in her children the values of hard work and determination.

Central to Byers' quest for equilibrium is the implementation of a structured schedule and defined business hours. By strategically allocating time for her children's activities and important milestones, she

ensures that they always feel her presence, despite her demanding professional commitments. Setting boundaries has proven to be a vital strategy in maintaining a healthy work-life balance, allowing Byers to prioritize her family without compromising on the success of her business.

For Byers, fashion serves as more than mere adornment; it is a powerful form of self-expression and a cornerstone of her personal brand. As a real estate professional, she understands the inherent connection between style and success, recognizing that her outward appearance is a reflection of her business acumen. With a penchant for sophisticated elegance, Byers effortlessly blends fashion with function, seamlessly transitioning from boardroom meetings to property viewings with impeccable style.

Moreover, Byers acknowledges the transformative power of fashion on confidence and mood. Just as she curates homes to meet her clients' lifestyle needs, she utilizes fashion to spotlight her offerings and enhance her brand presence. Her advice to fellow entrepreneurs underscores the importance of building a capsule wardrobe comprising classic pieces that exude confidence and versatility, augmented by statement accessories to infuse personality into every ensemble.

In a world where the demands of entrepreneurship often collide with the responsibilities of family life, Brandy Byers stands as a beacon of inspiration, embodying the delicate art of balancing business and family with poise and determination. Her journey serves as a reminder that, despite the challenges that lie ahead, one's unwavering commitment to excellence and the pursuit of one's passions will always prevail.

@brandycltrealtor
@hendersonventures

LORI ALESSANDRINI

A Visionary in the World of Aesthetics

In the bustling heart of Charlotte, North Carolina, amidst the ever-evolving beauty industry, Lori Alessandrini stands as a beacon of dedication and passion. As the visionary founder of Essential Aesthetics, her remarkable journey from the medical field to the world of aesthetics has solidified her reputation as a trusted figure in the industry.

Lori spent 23 years in the medical field before becoming a renowned esthetician. Her profound realization during this time was twofold: the power of human touch and the connection between looking good and feeling good. These principles ignited her curiosity and drove her to explore skincare as a means to put them into practice.

In 2013, Lori enrolled in an Esthetics course at Miller Motte College in Wilmington, setting the stage for her journey into beauty and wellness. Today, Essential Aesthetics, born from her humble beginnings, thrives as a sanctuary for those seeking to enhance their natural beauty.

Reflecting on her journey, Lori recalls opening her practice over ten years ago when the industry had less competition. Her unwavering dedication to her craft and her reputation as a trusted practitioner laid the foundation for her success.

What sets Essential Aesthetics apart today is its state-of-the-art advanced laser technology, boasting over one million dollars' worth of top-tier equipment. This technological edge allows Lori and her team to offer cutting-edge treatments with remarkable results.

Lori began as a solo practitioner, offering facials, chemical peels, and waxing services. In 2016, she introduced laser services, and in 2021, Essential Aesthetics opened its own permanent makeup studio. Her commitment to excellence earned her the title of Charlotte's Face of Aesthetics in Charlotte Magazine in

2017, a recognition she has received every year since. This year, Essential Aesthetics earned the title of "Top Medical Spa on the East Coast" by Aesthetic Everything, cementing Lori's reputation as an industry leader.

The journey of Essential Aesthetics extends beyond services, with Lori launching her own medical-grade skincare line, Essential Skincare, this year. This venture underscores her commitment to offering clients the best in skincare.

The success of Essential Aesthetics is not solely attributed to technology and services; it's also about the exceptional team behind it. Lori proudly boasts a team of ten incredibly talented and dedicated women who share her passion for aesthetics and unwavering commitment to client satisfaction.

In the rapidly evolving aesthetics industry, staying at the forefront of advancements is crucial. Lori and her team continuously research and study all aspects of the beauty industry and laser technology to provide clients with the most advanced services and techniques.

Essential Aesthetics offers a wide range of services, from laser skin resurfacing to IPL treatments addressing pigment issues, laser hair removal, tattoo removal, and the highly sought-after Emsculpt Neo for body contouring. Their expertise in permanent makeup simplifies daily routines for many clients.

Lori acknowledges the power of social media in the success of Essential Aesthetics. With a strong online presence on platforms like Instagram, Tik Tok, Facebook, and Threads, the clinic reaches and captivates potential clients with insights into their services, personalities, skill level, and advanced technology.

Yet, beyond services and technology, Lori emphasizes the importance of building lasting relationships with clients. Most clients begin their journey with a consultation with

Lori herself, where a year-long treatment plan is crafted. These clients become more than just clients; they become an extended family. Open communication and progress check-ins ensure that clients feel supported and cared for throughout their skincare journey.

The core of Lori's approach is honesty and transparency. She believes in setting realistic goals with her clients and never overpromising when it comes to results. This collaborative and realistic approach has earned her the trust and loyalty of her clients.

In a highly competitive industry, Lori Alessandrini's journey serves as an inspiring testament to what one can achieve with dedication, passion, and a strong work ethic. Her career as an esthetician has been one of the most rewarding experiences of her life, but she acknowledges that it came with its fair share of challenges, including transitioning from a solo practitioner to an employer of nine women and navigating the financial challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the defining moments in Lori's career was when she was asked by her partner Kim Kardashian to remove a facial tattoo for a North Carolina parolee. Dr. Simon Ourian of Beverly Hills, Kim Kardashian, and Kanye West visited Essential Aesthetics for the procedure, and the event was even featured on an episode of "Keeping Up with the Kardashians." This experience fueled Lori's desire to give back to her community, leading her to establish Project Exodus, a nonprofit organization that offers free facial and hand tattoo removal to recently released inmates striving to rebuild their lives.

As for the future, Lori's goals reflect her commitment to her craft and community. She aims to maintain and strengthen existing relationships while forging new ones to continue serving the skincare needs of the people in her area. Essential Aesthetics will always strive to be at its best and make the most of its skills, talents, and blessings. In the world of aesthetics, Lori Alessandrini's journey is a shining example of how passion, dedication, and a commitment to excellence can transform a humble beginning into a remarkable success story. As Essential Aesthetics continues to flourish, Lori's legacy as a trusted figure in the beauty industry will undoubtedly endure for years to come.

www.ealasercenter.com



BECK BAGS

— *Where Boldness Meets Authenticity*

In the bustling world of fashion, where trends come and go with the swiftness of the wind, Beck Bags stands as a testament to the power of authenticity and boldness. Founded by the visionary entrepreneur Beck, the brand emerged from a pivotal moment at New York Fashion Week, where a seemingly disparaging comment about her bag ignited the spark of inspiration. Instead of shrinking away, Beck embraced the notion of living boldly and authentically, thus birthing Beck Bags—a brand that celebrates individuality and encourages its community to do the same.

The journey of Beck Bags has been a rollercoaster of excitement, challenges, and profound moments of growth. From experiencing rapid success to navigating the uncertainties brought forth by the pandemic, Beck and her team have demonstrated resilience and adaptability. As a family-owned and operated business, every triumph and setback is faced together, infusing their endeavors with a unique familial spirit that resonates with their audience.

What sets Beck Bags apart is their vibrant palette of bold colors, offering luxury materials with a splash of audaciousness. While other brands may reserve such hues for seasonal collections, Beck Bags embraces them year-round, inviting customers to express themselves fearlessly. Moreover, the brand's commitment to female entrepreneurship fosters a supportive sisterhood within the industry, where collaboration and empowerment reign supreme.

Central to Beck Bags' ethos are values of authenticity, love, acceptance, and freedom. Through their engaging social media presence and genuine interactions with customers, they've cultivated a loyal community known as the Beck Insiders, whose unwavering support fuels the brand's continued success. Beyond accolades and publications, it's these personal connections that hold the greatest significance for Beck and her team.

In an era where sustainability is paramount, Beck Bags prioritizes ethical practices throughout their supply chain. From closely monitoring factory operations to repurposing scrap materials for accessories, they strive to minimize waste and uphold responsible manufacturing standards. Additionally, the brand remains committed to giving back to communities through charitable initiatives and mentorship programs.

The pandemic served as a catalyst for transformation, prompting Beck Bags to pivot towards e-commerce and digital platforms. This strategic shift not only ensured survival but also propelled growth in alignment with evolving consumer behaviors. While collaborations and expansion into new markets remain on the horizon, the brand remains grounded in its understanding of its core strengths and customer preferences.

Beyond business endeavors, the Beck family finds joy in travel, art, and philanthropy. Beck's passion for painting and her role as a devoted pug mom converge with Madison's dedication to volunteerism and marathon running aspirations. Together, they embody the essence of living boldly and authentically, both in their personal pursuits and professional endeavors.

As Beck Bags continues to carve its path in the fashion landscape, one thing remains certain: the brand's unwavering commitment to encouraging individuals to embrace their true selves and live life boldly. In a world that often dictates conformity, Beck Bags stands as a beacon of authenticity, inspiring others to do the same.

www.shopbeckbags.com
[@beck.bags](https://www.instagram.com/beck.bags)

A woman with blonde hair is smiling and holding a large collection of colorful handbags. The bags are in various colors including yellow, green, red, blue, pink, and orange. She is wearing a white shirt and light blue jeans. The background is plain white.

beck.

www.beckbags.com // [@beck.bags](https://www.instagram.com/beck.bags)



NADIA'S RHODES

From Insecurity to Inspiration: Modeling Story

The bustling atmosphere of Greenville Fashion Week is where Nadia's Rhodes modeling journey began. Four years ago, she stood on the runway for the first time, feeling a mix of excitement and trepidation. Unlike many of her peers, Nadia didn't grow up dreaming of becoming a model. Instead, her desire to enter the industry was born out of admiration—and a bit of envy—for the confidence she saw in the models gracing various platforms.

"I chose modeling because I envied their confidence and self-love, which I struggled with," Nadia recalls. "Even now, I still grapple with those feelings."

Her debut at Greenville Fashion Week marked the beginning of a transformative journey. Over the next three years, she continued to participate in the event, each season further igniting her passion for the industry. The turning point came this past year when she was chosen as a Greenville Top Model finalist, an accolade that took her by surprise and opened her eyes to the potential and opportunities within her reach.

"This recognition made me realize what I could achieve," Nadia says. "It pushed me to take modeling more seriously and start working with photographers, makeup artists, brands, and other organizations."

Despite her growing success, Nadia's journey was not without its challenges. As a young woman who had always been insecure about her appearance, the stigmas associated with the modeling industry made her nervous. However, the experience profoundly impacted her confidence and self-love.

"Modeling has done so much for me. It's majorly impacted my confidence and how I view myself," she shares. "I've learned that confidence can be faked until it becomes real. It's about embracing your uniqueness and not comparing yourself to others."

Nadia's scientific approach to overcoming her insecurities is both practical and inspirational. She reminds herself that everyone has a unique DNA pattern, making each person distinctly different. This understanding helps her focus on her individuality rather than comparing herself to others.

Her preparation for photoshoots and runway shows is meticulous. Nadia develops ideas for poses, expressions, and props, often practicing in front of a mirror to find the right angles and shapes. "Diversity is very important when shooting and even on the runway," she notes. "I stand in front of a big mirror and move my body in different ways to develop a theme for the shoot."

Nadia's goals in modeling extend beyond personal success. She aspires to embrace her unique features and develop creative ideas that inspire and instill confidence in other women. Her dreams are big—she envisions herself in New York, working with Vogue, and living a life filled with visionary endeavors.

"Each day, I aspire to be a model who not only has visual appeal but also impacts and instills confidence in other women around me," Nadia says with determination. "I dream of going big and being visionary in multiple ways." Nadia's journey as a model is a testament to the power of self-discovery and resilience. Her story is one of growth, confidence, and an unwavering belief in her unique self. As she continues to navigate the world of modeling, Nadia remains committed to her goals and dreams, ready to inspire others along the way.

@nadiamrhodes

Photographer: www.dariusollisonphotography.com

@Darius.ollison.photography





CHANDLER

Chandler Couillard's journey into the world of modeling didn't begin in the traditional sense. In 2020, the global pandemic shuttered the engineering firm where she worked, abruptly ending her office-bound safety net. It was a pivotal moment for Chandler, who had harbored dreams of modeling since she was 13. "Losing my job was a wake-up call," she reflects. "I decided it was now or never to pursue something I was genuinely passionate about."

Embarking on her new path, Chandler immersed herself in her local creative community, forging connections and building friendships that would support her burgeoning career. "The community was incredibly welcoming," she recalls. "I am so grateful for the wonderful friends I've made and all they've taught and shared with me. It's been a journey of mutual growth and inspiration."

However, the transition was not without its challenges. "One of the most difficult aspects of modeling has been getting people to see me as more than a prop," Chandler admits. "Modeling and character acting are skills that require practice and effort. Models should be just as much a part of the creative process as everyone else involved in a project." Chandler's determination to be recognized as a vital contributor to the creative process led her to stand up for herself, demand fair compensation, and insist on being involved in every aspect of her work. This assertiveness marked a significant shift in how she was perceived and treated in the industry.

Her breakthrough came with a cinematic shoot in Atlanta with the talented Shani Varner. "I consider that my first big modeling gig," she says with a smile. "Shani has since transitioned to directing and color grading, but during our session together, I learned so much. It was a pivotal moment in my career." The experience pushed Chandler out of her comfort zone, boosting her confidence and inspiring her to explore acting alongside modeling. "It gave me the courage to start acting, which

has added a whole new dimension to my career."

Chandler's modeling career has primarily involved photo work, and she has developed a unique pre-shoot ritual to get into the right creative headspace. "I like to do my makeup alone while listening to a curated playlist," she reveals. "I have several playlists, depending on the vibe the shoot calls for. It helps me get into character. It's fun to watch it all come together."

Despite her successes, Chandler remains grounded and focused on her ultimate goal: creating art that resonates with people. "I just want to keep creating art that inspires people, that makes you feel something," she says passionately. "That's the most exciting and fulfilling aspect of modeling for me."

When asked about her dreams for the future, Chandler's eyes light up. "I've mostly kept my aspirations to myself out of fear of failure, but I don't want to live that way anymore," she confesses. "I dream of working with MUGLER and Iris Van Herpen. I love the strangeness and the ethereal beauty they showcase so boldly. It's the kind of art that captivates and challenges perceptions."

Chandler Couillard's journey is a testament to resilience, creativity, and the power of following one's dreams. As she continues to evolve and inspire through her work, there is no doubt that her artistry will leave a lasting impact on the world of modeling and beyond.

Photographer and creative director - Dani Venen
@theeditorialstyle

Model - Chandler Couillard @chandlercouill

Hair and makeup - Chandler Couillard @chandlercouill

Assisted by Michael Betzner

@michael_betznerphotography

Location - Pop Shell Studio in Cleveland, OH

@studiopopshell







FACE

THE RUNWAY

We are Back!

The opulent La Meridien Hotel in Charlotte, NC set the stage for a dazzling display of style and innovation at The Face Magazine Fashion Extravaganza on December 28th, 2024. Sponsored by Dillard's South Park, this event marked my inaugural experience with Face the Magazine, and it exceeded all expectations.

Throughout the venue, Charlotte's fashion elite mingled, adding an extra layer of glamour to the affair. Hosting duties were expertly handled by WSOC-TV Co-Anchor Erica Bryant and the ever-stylish Ryan Jor El, fondly remembered as 'The Fashion Connoisseur.' His confident stride down the catwalk only heightened the anticipation for the evening's spectacle.

The runway showcased a fusion of established designers and exciting newcomers, offering a tantalizing glimpse into the future of fashion. Pixton's collection, with its playful blend of teals, golds, and peacock prints, evoked a sense of flirtatious escapism, flawlessly executed by the models.

Dillard's Southpark, epitomizing "The Style of Your Life," curated a selection of looks that epitomized luxury and versatility. Styled by Dawn Perkins and Kareesh Forreal, each ensemble exuded individuality, catering to women of all tastes and preferences.

Tara Davis captivated with her orchid high-waisted pants paired with a geometric black top, effortlessly transitioning from casual to chic. Her brand, aptly named 'FLOW,' epitomized functional yet fabulous attire.

Snarkeez injected the runway with edgy allure, incorporating unexpected touches of gold and hot pink into their signature style. Designer Anastasia's humility matched her undeniable talent, resulting in a collection that was both daring and delightful.

Venancio Tadeo's avant-garde creations, adorned with intricate headpieces and natural textures, captured the imagination. His meticulous attention to detail was evident, particularly in a striking ensemble featuring cascading red flowers against a pristine white backdrop.

Tygerianlace made a bold statement with vibrant hues, sequins, and zebra prints, showcasing a fearless approach

to design that commanded attention.

Luko Marion left a lasting impression with its fusion of metallic accents and ornate embellishments. Each piece exuded an air of sophistication and originality, earning Marion well-deserved acclaim.

Brian James, a true polymath, dazzled with his line Usurper, marrying sensuality with rebellion in each meticulously crafted garment.

Cosmo Gypsy transported us to a world of bohemian splendor, culminating in a lavishly embroidered lavender velvet kimono that epitomized luxury and whimsy.

Royal Peasantry embraced sustainability and individuality with their earthy, upcycled designs, offering a refreshing alternative to fast fashion.

Beck Bags showcased exquisite leather creations accented with heavy chains, epitomizing quality craftsmanship and style.

Lunas Lifestyle by Christine provided practical yet stylish outfit ideas for everyday wear, curated with finesse by Christine Bourman Rinkert Kareesh Forreal.

One Nation Elevated Streetwear paid homage to '80s nostalgia with preppy rugby shirts, signaling a welcome revival of retro chic.

Behind the scenes, Face the Runway, a subsidiary of The Face Magazine, orchestrated a flawless production, ensuring a seamless experience for designers, models, and beauty teams alike. Led by HMU Director Jonathan Cawley, the event unfolded with precision and grace.

Amidst the glitz and glamour, a poignant reminder of the importance of mental health was delivered by the mother of Cheslie Kryst, a beloved member of the Charlotte fashion community. Cheslie's tragic battle with mental illness serves as a sobering reminder that appearances can be deceiving, prompting Face the Magazine to launch Behind The Face: Unmasking Mental Health, a nonprofit initiative dedicated to raising awareness and providing support.

As the evening drew to a close, it was evident that true beauty extends beyond the runway. In a world that often prioritizes image over substance, let us remember to prioritize both our fashion and our well-being. Stay fashionable, stay healthy, and above all, stay true to yourself.

written by:

XOXO, Designer Diva @designerdiva1103

Back of House Directors – Beck Moose, Ozzy Ojito, Madison Moose–Barrington, Meredith Reed,
Tiffany Lewis – Model Casting Director
Model Casting – Berhan Nebioglu
Model Casting – Christie Luke
Model Casting – Maurice Brown
Model Casting – Wesley Mancini
Executive Assistant for Andre Micheal – Erica Wilson and Zakariya
VP Operations Manager – Kareesh Forreal
Production Manager – Gabriella Marte
Staff Coordinator – Haley Wise
VIP Director – Maronda T'Pring
Staff - Jennifer Piceno–Garcia
Staff Videographer – Laurence Logon and Klye Fryar
Ticketing Coodinator – Torey Wilson
Staff Photographer–Tina Quizon
Staff Photographer – Tyson Arts
Staff Photographer – Glen Graham
Hair and Make Up Director – Jonathan Phillipe







THE FUTURE

Kübra Karakaş and Her AI-Generated of Fashion: *Designs*

In the world of fashion, where creativity meets technology, Kübra Karakaş stands as a visionary designer whose innovative approach is reshaping the industry. Kübra's designs, featured in Face Magazine, are not just about clothing but about embodying a lifestyle that pushes the boundaries of what is possible. Her journey into the world of fashion started with a fascination for art and technology. Combining these passions, she began to explore the potential of artificial intelligence in fashion design. The result is a collection of unique models, each piece a testament to the limitless possibilities of AI.

AI is a tool not to be feared. AI helps creatives visualize their work, bringing concepts to life. Kübra Karakaş is an example of how AI can be harnessed to push creative boundaries. Her designs are characterized by their bold lines, intricate patterns, and innovative use of materials. Each piece is crafted to make a statement, ensuring that anyone wearing them will not only look stylish but also exude confidence and originality. Kübra's vision is to create clothing that stands out, capturing the essence of a forward-thinking lifestyle.

Although Kübra's designs have garnered significant attention and acclaim, they are not yet available for production. Without an online selling platform, the journey to bring these avant-garde creations to the market continues. Undeterred by this challenge, Kübra is actively seeking sponsorship and business partnerships to turn her visionary designs into tangible products.

The search for the right partners is crucial for Kübra, as she seeks to collaborate with those who share her passion for innovation and excellence. She envisions a partnership that not only supports the production of her designs but also contributes to the evolution of fashion. With the right backing, Kübra aims to revolutionize the industry, making her futuristic designs accessible to fashion enthusiasts worldwide.

Her commitment to her craft is evident in every detail of her designs. From conceptualization to the final digital renderings, Kübra meticulously works to ensure that each piece is a perfect blend of art and functionality. Her dedication is driven by a desire to inspire others to embrace the future of fashion, encouraging a shift towards more innovative and sustainable practices.

Kübra's story is one of passion, perseverance, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Through her work, she aims to inspire a new generation of designers to explore the possibilities of technology in fashion. Her designs are not just clothes; they are a statement of what the future holds for the industry.

As Kübra continues to search for the right partnerships, she remains hopeful and optimistic. The support of sponsors and business partners will be instrumental in bringing her visionary designs to life. With each step forward, Kübra moves closer to her goal of transforming the fashion landscape, one AI-generated piece at a time.

For those who believe in the power of innovation and the beauty of futuristic fashion, Kübra Karakaş's designs offer a glimpse into the future. With your support, these creations can become a reality, setting a new standard for style and lifestyle. Together, we can make the future of fashion bright, bold, and incredibly stylish.

www.breonnacollier.com
[@breonnacollier_](https://www.instagram.com/breonnacollier_)









UNVEILING THE REBELLION

The Rise of Snarkeez in the Fashion Industry

In a world where success often seems synonymous with compromise and conformity, Anastasia found herself disillusioned by the Fashion Industry's cutthroat nature. Despite her talent and hard work, she continually faced the bitter taste of uncredited achievements and unpaid dues. It was amidst this backdrop of frustration and disenchantment that the seeds of Snarkeez were sown.

Snarkeez emerged as a defiant response to the status quo—a rebellious outcry against the superficiality and self-absorption that permeated the fashion landscape. The name itself, chosen almost whimsically, mirrored the founders' mood at the time—a blend of defiance and irreverence. What began as a mere "what if" evolved into a testament to individuality and artistic integrity.

In essence, Snarkeez became the antithesis of the mainstream fashion narrative—an "anti-Industry" movement challenging the norms and conventions dictated by the elite echelons of the fashion world. It stood as a beacon of authenticity in an industry rife with pretense and opportunism.

The Fashion Industry, as Anastasia and her team saw it, had become a cesspool of narcissism and conformity. Authenticity was sacrificed at the altar of trends and celebrity culture, leaving little room for genuine artistic expression. Snarkeez sought to reclaim fashion as a form of personal and artistic expression—a canvas where individuality could flourish free from the shackles of industry dictates.

Their journey began humbly, with Anastasia herself modeling their creations and capturing images on a simple iPad. Yet, fueled by passion and a fervent desire for change, they persisted. Over time, Snarkeez evolved, embracing social media platforms like Instagram to showcase their creations and connect with their audience. But Snarkeez wasn't just about challenging the norms of the fashion world; it was also about embodying

inclusivity and sustainability. Their designs, whether handmade or sourced, were imbued with a sense of purpose, often incorporating repurposed materials like aluminum cans and plastic bags—a testament to their commitment to environmental consciousness.

Moreover, Snarkeez actively championed underground artists and musicians, providing them with a platform to showcase their talent. Their runway shows featured the works of unknown artists, amplifying voices that might otherwise go unheard in the cacophony of mainstream media.

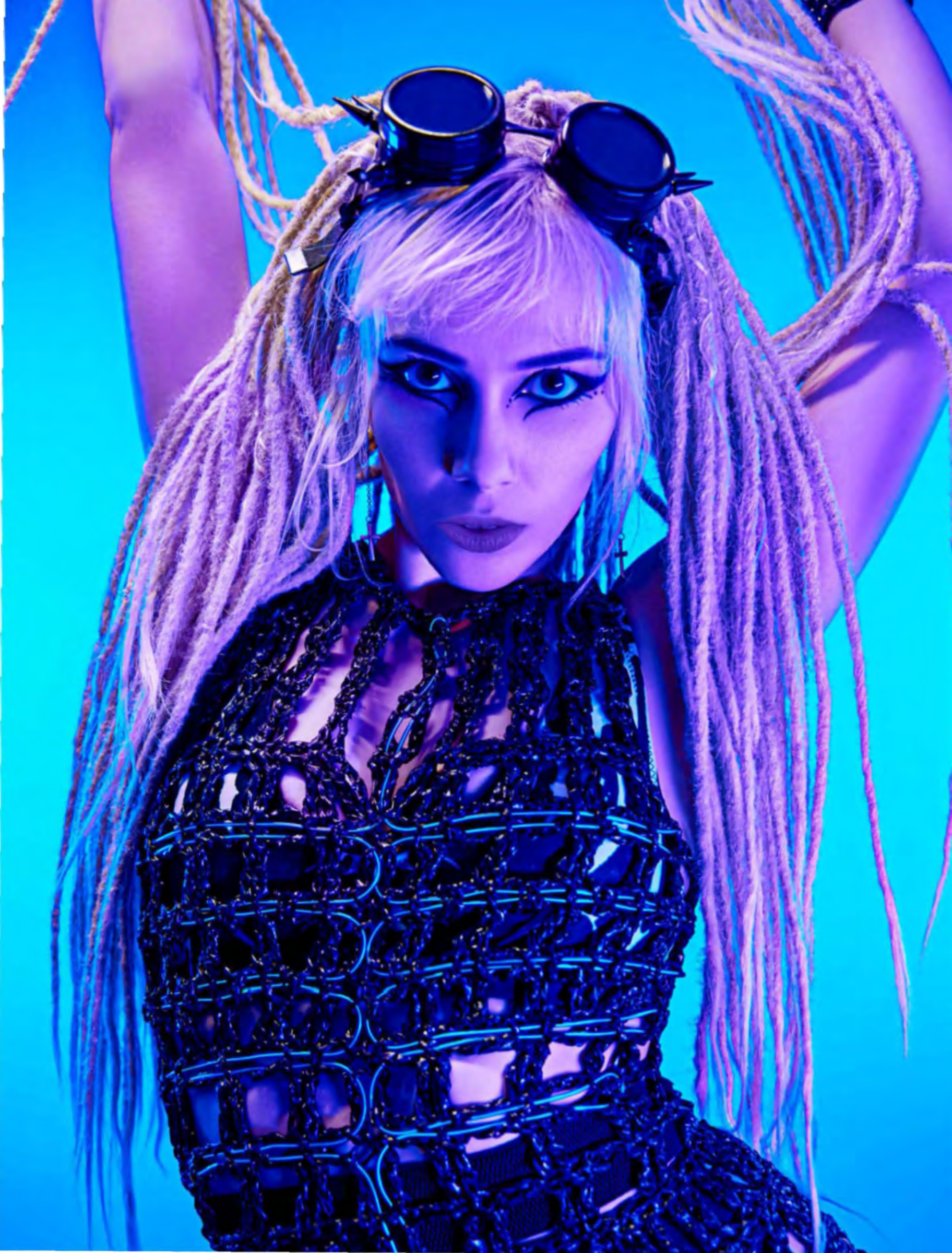
Yet, amidst their defiance and rebellion, Snarkeez found success—not in the traditional sense of industry accolades or celebrity endorsements, but in the genuine admiration and support of their loyal fanbase. Each fashion show was not just a display of clothing but a celebration of individuality and creativity—an affirmation of their unwavering commitment to their art.

Looking ahead, Anastasia envisions a future where technology and innovation continue to shape the landscape of fashion retail. But amidst the ever-evolving trends and algorithms, one thing remains constant—the ethos of Snarkeez, a reminder to forge one's path and stay true to one's vision, no matter the odds.

As the fashion world grapples with its own identity crisis, Snarkeez stands as a beacon of hope—a reminder that true artistry knows no bounds and that authenticity will always reign supreme in a world plagued by imitation and artifice. So, here's to Snarkeez—a testament to rebellion, resilience, and the enduring power of individuality in an industry that often forgets its soul.

www.snarkeez.com
@snarkeez
Model: Acadia Rose @vinigure





THE ARTISTRY OF

Fashion as a Symphony of Creativity Luko Marion:

In a world where fashion often serves as a canvas for self-expression, Luko Marion stands out as a visionary whose creative journey transcends mere garments. From a young age, fashion was more than just a hobby for Marion—it was a passion that ignited a relentless pursuit of innovation and elegance. "I've always been looking at fashion with a different eye," Marion reflects, "for me, it's more than just clothes because sometimes I have visions of listening to music and I see runway shows and collections altogether."

With a penchant for classic elegance imbued with modern flair, Marion's designs epitomize a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation. "I love classic elegance for the structure and the way it's made with high-quality techniques," Marion explains, "but to mix these techniques with new designs with a modern flair is more like bringing it a bit younger in a way."

Navigating the unpredictable currents of fashion trends, Marion's approach remains steadfastly focused on sustainability and individuality. "By creating clothes that could be mixed over and over with the rest of the actual collection or previous collection or even mix with other designers," Marion emphasizes, "using eco fabric or organic and sometimes new techniques and always in small quantities so no overproduction ahead."

Collaborations with fellow visionaries, like the memorable partnership with a leather specialist, Joel Bisonnette II, exemplify Marion's commitment to pushing boundaries and creating unforgettable pieces. "It did bring all the attention from the media," Marion reminisces, "and we both benefited from it and it created two exquisite pieces."

Yet, amidst the creative whirlwind, Marion acknowledges the importance of restraint and introspection. "Sometimes I try to do less but most of the time I want more," Marion admits with a laugh, "I do need to tone

down a bit when I create or during the process of creation."

Central to Marion's creative process is the symbiotic relationship between fashion and music. "I usually start with inspiration from music, and fabric," Marion reveals, "most people who know me will say I always do Black but to be realistic I do consider color in my collection."

As Marion's journey in the fashion world continues, the desire for a tangible connection with customers grows stronger. "A store would be great because I love my customers," Marion shares, "and see them wearing the collection and commenting about it live."

Ultimately, for Marion, fashion transcends mere aesthetics—it is a conduit for self-expression, communication, and freedom. "Fashion is for me like oxygen is for every living being," Marion concludes, "without Fashion I don't Live."

In a world filled with ever-changing trends and fleeting fads, Luko Marion's steadfast commitment to timeless elegance, sustainability, and individuality serves as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring designers and fashion enthusiasts alike.

www.lukomarion.com

@lukomarion

Photographed by Kyle Fryar @kyle_fryar
Talent

Sie Snow @sieyuhnow

Caden Pleasants @spliflort

HMUA Gabriella Marte @curlylife4ever









TYGERIANLACE

A Journey in Fashion

Tygerian Lace Burke's journey into the fashion world began with a personal need. After the birth of her second child, she found herself yearning for luxurious, sustainable, and timeless clothing that could fit within the budget of her growing household. Despite extensive research, she couldn't find exactly what she was looking for. Determined to fill this gap, she decided to start her own clothing brand. With unwavering support from her husband and two children, Burke left her position in corporate America to found TYGERIANLACE.

The philosophy behind TYGERIANLACE is to create garments that exude luxury, sustainability, and timelessness. Working predominantly with a color palette of black, white, and red, each piece crafted by Burke strikes a balance between softness and boldness, finished with high-end details. The materials used in TYGERIANLACE garments include a blend of biodegradable and nonbiodegradable sequins, mock feathers, brocade, and cotton. These textiles are manipulated through techniques such as draping, pleating, gathering, tucking, and ruching to create the brand's signature look.

One of the distinguishing features of TYGERIANLACE is its strategic sustainability service, which allows clients to upcycle their custom TYGERIANLACE pieces into new creations. This service, along with the brand's consistent color palette and love for embellishments, ensures that TYGERIANLACE pieces are instantly recognizable. The brand draws significant inspiration from the 1950s, incorporating iconic styles such as the pencil skirt and corset top into its collections.

Burke's creative process is uniquely intuitive. She does not rely on sketches or sample pieces; instead, she works directly with the textiles, allowing the fabric's properties to guide the design. This freeform approach results in organic and original creations that embody the essence of TYGERIANLACE.

Collaborations have been crucial to TYGERIANLACE's growth. Instagram influencers like @Paolact, @slipintostyle, and @Scotch_soda have amplified the brand's reach and visibility. Social media plays a significant role in attracting new clients and opportunities, making it an indispensable part of the

brand's strategy.

Global inspiration and community outreach are integral to TYGERIANLACE's ethos. The brand's recent partnership with The Washington D.C. Alumnae Foundation, Inc. led to a journey exploring fashion from the Harlem Renaissance era, influencing their All Season 2025 collection. These global experiences contribute to the diversity and richness of TYGERIANLACE's designs.

Sustainability is at the heart of TYGERIANLACE's operations. The brand is committed to supply chain transparency and improving worker conditions. TYGERIANLACE has pledged to increase its use of biodegradable materials from 51% to 83% over four years, collaborating with companies like Contrado, PrimaLoft, and The Sustainable Sequin Company. This commitment not only enhances the environmental impact of their garments but also aligns with the growing demand for eco-friendly fashion.

Every collection from TYGERIANLACE is crafted in Burke's 200 sq ft workspace at home, each piece representing a unique story filled with learning curves, highs, and lows. The brand doesn't chase fashion trends, preferring to stick to timeless silhouettes, though occasionally incorporating trending colors for relevance.

TYGERIANLACE engages customers through transparent brand content, sharing the journey of each design from runway to everyday wear, often showcased by influencers and Burke herself. As the brand nears its tenth anniversary, Burke reflects on her journey, advising aspiring designers to take their time and dedicate themselves fully to learning the business aspects of fashion.

Looking ahead, TYGERIANLACE is set to debut at NYFW 2024, a milestone that marks another significant step in the brand's evolution. Burke envisions a legacy for TYGERIANLACE defined by its commitment to sustainable luxury and timeless design, paving the way for future designers, especially those of color, to follow in her footsteps.

Model: Sophia Jaramillo, @sophiajaramillo
Photographed by: Tobi Loke, @thetobiloke
www.tygerianlace.net









AI IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Enhancing or Hindering Creativity?

Adrián Tapia, a seasoned fashion photographer, welcomed us with enthusiasm to discuss a topic that has stirred the creative community. "Thank you very much for the space and opportunity to discuss such a controversial topic," he began, his eyes reflecting a mix of excitement and contemplation.

"I find this question challenging because AI is expanding the possibilities of creation and it's shifting almost everything in our field. However, I'm aware of the duality of it; I see how it's making some artists less creative as they don't have to use their imagination as much."

He spoke about the varied reactions within the photography community, noting, "It's really a matter of how each photographer's relationship is with AI. Some feel like it's the enemy, some use it as a powerful tool to complement their work, and some let it do all the work. It impacts everyone very differently."

With a hint of challenge in his voice, Adrián dared to state, "The vast majority of photographers aren't even remotely close to competing with AI if we see it from a superficial standpoint. AI can definitely create 'prettier' artworks than most photographers." But he quickly added, "However, to me, what gives value to an artwork is not only the photographs themselves but the stories behind them. The craft work. The mix of energies from makeup artists, models, designers, hairstylists, wardrobe stylists, etc. The hours of dedication and love each team member brings to the table to create a masterpiece is what's valuable in my perspective. The experience of collective creation is embodied in the final product. A computer can't add that essence."

Adrián's passion for his craft was palpable as he continued, "Not everyone has the sensitivity to see that side of art, but that essence goes beyond the pixels. I wouldn't say it's a threat because I know what I offer. My art and services are more than final photos. I offer an experience... and pretty photos of course."



He acknowledged the practical benefits of AI in his work, especially in compiling ideas and streamlining editing processes. "I've integrated it in my work when creating mood boards. It's allowed me to quickly create high-quality images for inspiration which condense the multiple elements I envision, helping communicate my vision to the team. Also, in editing programs with AI-powered functions that help have a more efficient workflow. I remember having to select a subject with the pen tool in Photoshop and then doing this whole delicate process to select the hair. Now it takes only a couple clicks."

Adrián's advice to fellow photographers was clear and empowering. "Stay true to your vision. Use the tools around you to your advantage, don't be intimidated by them. Explore them and see how they can complement your work."

He concluded with a reflective yet confident note, "I think AI will replace a lot of photographers in certain industries but not the real ones. AI cannot replace a real artist because AI is a shadow of its creator; humans. Don't fall for the illusion that a machine can be better at being a creator because we're the ones who carry the magic or creation. Always remember that."

www.adrianthephotographer.me
[@adrianthephotographer](https://www.instagram.com/adrianthephotographer)



MICHELL ROXANA

@michellroxana

Photographed by Adrian Oregon

@Adrianthephotographer









LAURENCE LOGAN ON

Embracing AI Without Losing Artistic Integrity

The Face Magazine sits down with Laurence Logan, a renowned photographer and retoucher, to explore the intersection of AI and photography. Laurence's perspective on this evolving landscape is both nuanced and deeply insightful.

"AI in photography is both frightening and intriguing," Laurence begins, his eyes reflecting a mixture of excitement and caution. "It can possibly be the end of many a career. But as a photographer and retoucher, as well as a technophile, we have been using forms of AI for decades. This was a natural progression of mixing technology and art."

Laurence's journey with AI started long before it became the buzzword it is today. From predictive autofocus in his camera to sophisticated editing software, AI has been a silent partner in his creative process. "I've been using AI in my workflow for years, from the predictive autofocus in my camera to the editing software and even social media publications. As someone who prides himself on the final presentation of his work, these tools have enhanced my capabilities, especially since I'm not a purist."

He pauses, considering the broader implications of AI on the industry. "It's either finding out how to integrate it into your workflow or get run over by it. The art created through prompts is based on references to scientifically proven techniques. This is something the human eye and mind can struggle to create consistently. But this also highlights what makes each photographer unique. Every one of us has a different level of understanding and implementation of these concepts, if any at all. Thus, we can create a wider range of work."

Laurence acknowledges the fear many photographers feel about AI potentially replacing their jobs. However, he believes this concern might be overstated in some areas. "It will be a long time before AI can truly replicate the details of ocular photography. They may look good at a distance, but currently, they do not hold up when examined closely, as the technology is just not there yet. Also, at the end of the day, photography is the art of taking a photograph."



No matter how good AI gets, prompts will not be able to 'take a photograph'—only digitally replicate what it thinks is a photograph based on the input of its user. So technically speaking, you can't compete if you're not even playing the same game."

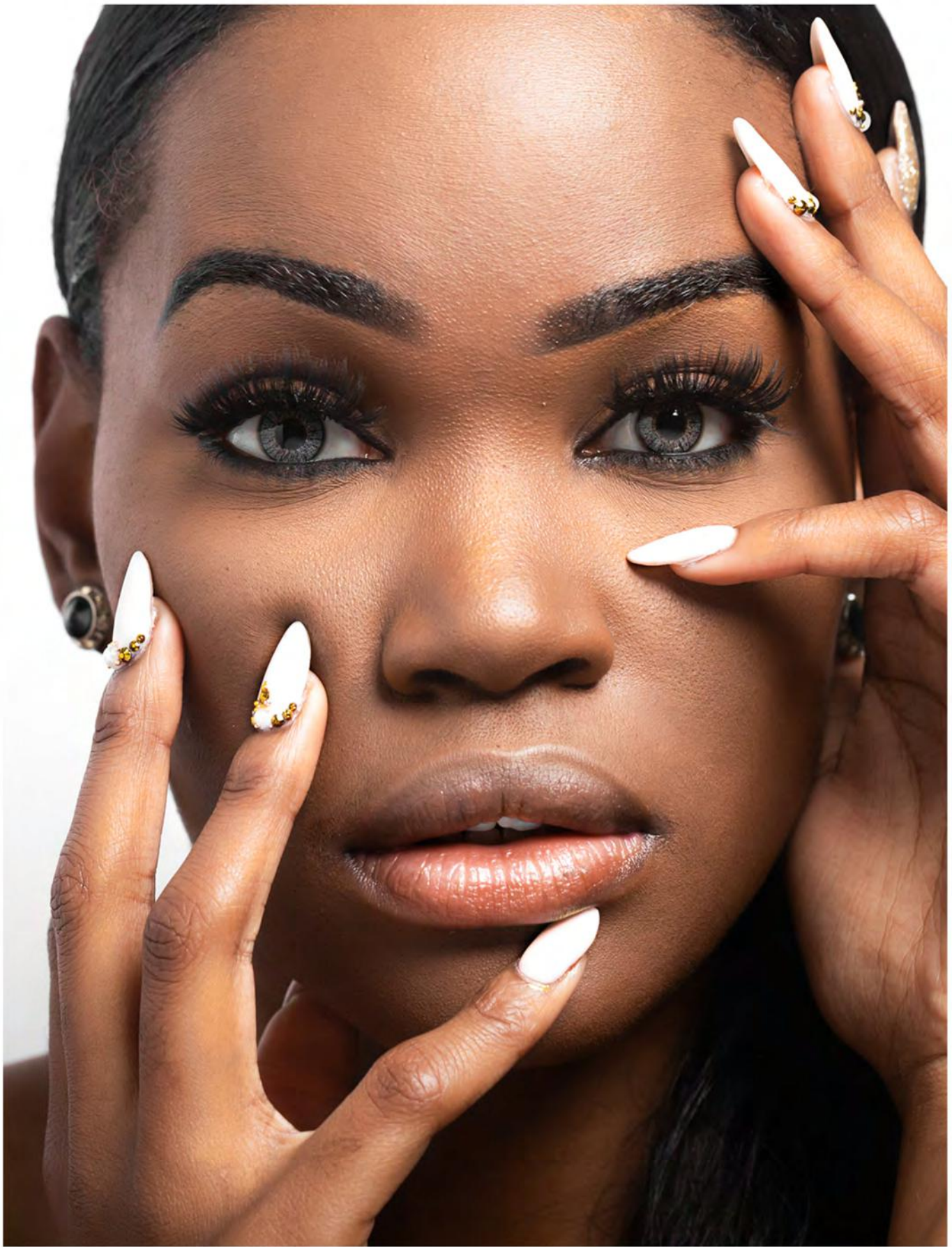
Laurence sees AI not as a threat but as a tool that can enhance the artistic process. "Every photographer has a different level of understanding and implementation of these concepts, if any at all. This diversity is what makes our work so rich and varied. AI can assist us, but it can't replace the unique perspective that each of us brings to our craft."

As our conversation ends, Laurence leaves us with a thought-provoking perspective on the future of photography. "In the end, it's about finding a balance. Embrace the technology, use it to enhance your work, but never forget the irreplaceable value of the human touch. That's where true artistry lies."

Laurence Logan's insights remind us that while AI continues to evolve, the heart of photography remains in the hands of those who can see the world through a lens and capture its essence with a single click.

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FROM PEN TO

Petals

Lana Bespalov's Journey from Journalism to Floral Design

Lana Bespalov began her career in TV-journalism, finding her voice through storytelling for science programs. It was my passion and a huge part of my life, and I was really good at it. All my knowledge from that time is helping me now - I learned how to create, how to be not usual, not standard. Floristry is my passion, but I'm sure it's just the beginning of a bigger story. As a passionate and artistic person, you know what I mean—you never know where your journey will lead you.

Designing the flowers for her own wedding was a pivotal experience. Months before the big day, she practiced making floral crowns, bouquets, and boutonnieres by watching videos and taking online classes. "Crafting each arrangement brought me so much joy and showed me how impactful flowers can be," she recalls, inspiring her to pursue floral design professionally.

Formal training at floral schools and time spent with talented designers taught her invaluable lessons. "One important lesson was learning how to understand and work with the natural shape of flowers," she explains. Techniques like layering textures and adding unique elements have become integral to her style. These experiences also reinforced the importance of sustainability in floral design, a principle Lana passionately upholds.

Winning "Best in Show" and "Florists' Favorite" at the Fleur de Ville mannequin competition was a significant honor. "I think what set my designs apart was the blend of creativity, attention to detail, and the emotional connection I aimed to create," she muses. "My goal was to tell a story with my designs, and that resonated with the judges." This year, Lana is excited to return to New York to participate in the show again, representing Flowers' Cuddles, her flourishing floral business.

The name "Flowers' Cuddles" reflects a mission to create arrangements that bring joy and comfort. Lana explains.

The brand aims to embody warmth and care, making every floral gift feel like a personal embrace.

Sustainability is a cornerstone of Flowers' Cuddles. "The floral industry often uses plastic for bouquet wrapping, which gets thrown away almost immediately and can end up in the ocean," Lana notes. "Instead, we use recycled and recyclable materials for our packaging. It helps us protect the planet while still delivering beautiful flowers."

Keeping flowers fresh and beautiful can be challenging. "There are many factors that affect their quality, from farm conditions to transportation," Lana admits. To ensure their flowers are in the best condition, Flowers' Cuddles offers a 7-day guarantee. They provide care instructions and flower food with each bouquet, and during delivery, they wrap the stems in a cotton towel and place them in a compostable bag with a bit of water to keep them fresh and vibrant. "If anything isn't right, we're happy to exchange the bouquet to make sure you're completely satisfied," she assures.

Lana loves creating arrangements that blend traditional elegance with modern twists. "One of my favorite combinations is peonies with eucalyptus and succulents," she reveals. "I'm particularly in love with using succulents in arrangements as they add such a stylish touch." This mix reflects her artistic vision of combining softness with structure, creating a harmonious balance.

Connecting with customers is central to Flowers' Cuddles' approach. "We're always thrilled to be in touch and to create custom arrangements that bring joy," Lana shares. "There's nothing more rewarding than receiving positive feedback from our customers." For every order they send two emails: one with a picture of the arrangement when it's dispatched and another when it's delivered. "It's a wonderful experience for our customers to see what their special person will receive."

Looking ahead, Lana has ambitious goals for Flowers' Cuddles, including expanding their eco-friendly practices and launching new product lines. "One of my current goals is to promote the event side of our business," she says. Having worked extensively in NYC and Philadelphia on large-scale installations for various galas, it feels natural to expand by creating her own beautiful events. We've already started working on a new event website, so fingers crossed we'll launch it by the end of the summer." Lana also has exciting collaborations on the horizon, including partnerships with local artists like TygcrianLace for unique floral art installations, and plans to host workshops to share her passion and knowledge with the community.

Lana Bespalov's journey from the written word to the vibrant world of floral design is a testament to following one's passion. Through Flowers' Cuddles, she continues to weave stories, but now, she does so with petals and stems, bringing joy and beauty to all who encounter her creations. With her commitment to sustainability and her artistic vision, Lana is not just designing flowers; she is cultivating a brighter, greener future.

www.flowerscuddles.com











THE HUMAN

Touch:

Breonna Collier on AI's Place in Photography

In the ever-evolving world of photography, the emergence of artificial intelligence has stirred up both excitement and apprehension. Breonna Collier, a seasoned fashion photographer, is no stranger to the conversation. As AI begins to weave itself into the fabric of the industry, Collier candidly shares her thoughts on its potential impact, balancing her concerns with an optimistic view of the future.

"The rise of AI is definitely concerning to many photographers, including myself," Collier admits. She acknowledges the impressive ability of AI to generate images from mere keywords, creating visuals by sampling and combining elements from existing imagery. This capability, she notes, could lead some to worry about their professional futures. However, Collier is steadfast in her belief that the human element in photography—interaction, creativity, and personal connection—will always hold irreplaceable value.

For Collier, the heart of photography lies in the unique artistic touch that only a human can provide. "AI-generated images cannot truly compete with the artistic touch of a professional photographer," she asserts. While AI can mimic styles and create technically perfect images, it lacks the innovative spark that defines great art. "AI creates images based on the information it is given," she explains, "but it cannot truly innovate. The inventive flair of human creativity remains irreplaceable." This, Collier believes, is where photographers have an edge, crafting signature styles that reflect their personal vision—a feat she doubts AI could ever genuinely replicate.

Despite her concerns, Collier is not opposed to AI. In fact, she sees its integration into platforms like Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom as a boon to the profession. She points to tools such as Photoshop's Generative Fill, which allows users to manipulate images with text prompts, and programs like Aftershoot, which use AI to

streamline the editing process. These innovations, she says, enhance her workflow, making processes faster and more efficient without compromising on quality. "I see tools like these as enhancements to my work," Collier notes, "because they make processes more efficient and allow me to work faster overall."

For Collier, the key to staying relevant in an AI-influenced industry lies in embracing these technological advancements. She encourages fellow photographers to view AI not as a threat, but as an opportunity to enhance their craft. By integrating AI into their workflows in a way that complements their skills, photographers can remain competitive and continue to deliver the high-quality work their clients expect.

However, Collier is firm in her belief that AI will never fully replace human photographers. "Certain aspects of photography will always require a human touch," she insists. She points to the intangible moments captured during weddings, family portraits, and surprise parties—occasions where real-time documentation and emotional resonance are key. These are moments, Collier argues, that AI simply cannot replicate.

As the conversation around AI in photography continues to evolve, Breonna Collier remains hopeful. She sees a future where AI and human creativity coexist, each enhancing the other, but never replacing the invaluable human touch.

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Echoes of ancestors in every curl,
Stories whispered in a spiraled swirl.
Crowned with pride, their hair a regal flow,
In each wave and bounce, their spirits glow.
Bold and unbroken, they stand in grace,
With curls that frame each radiant face.
In unity and strength, their crowns unfurled,
Queens of their own, in a curly world.

Photographer: Breonna Collier (@breonnacollier_)
Hair Stylist: Gabby Whitfield (@gabbys.way)
Makeup Artist: Krysta Medley (@kcmmedleymua)
Model: Dierra Davis (@divinedierra)
Model: Jarin Simmons (@jarin.simmons)
Model: Ashley McRae (@afroeurpean)







TINA QUIZON

A Journey from Paradise to the World Stage

In the vibrant tapestry of the media landscape, there are individuals whose journey traverses continents, cultures, and crucial moments in history. Tina Quizon, a multifaceted media professional, is one such luminary whose odyssey from the shores of Honolulu to the global stage is as compelling as it is inspiring.

Quizon's narrative begins in 2006 amidst the lush landscapes of Hawaii, where she embarked on her maiden voyage into the realm of television and film. With boundless creativity and unwavering determination, she birthed her brainchild, "Pathways to Paradise," a television show that not only captured the essence of Hawaii but also served as a springboard to transcend geographical boundaries.

Venturing beyond the Pacific, Quizon's lens captured the pulsating energy of Asia, from the bustling streets of Korea to the idyllic shores of the Philippines. Her insatiable thirst for storytelling led her to the hallowed grounds of prestigious institutions like MIT and the bustling metropolis of New York City, where she imbibed wisdom from luminaries in the field of media.

Yet, it was not merely accolades and awards that adorned Quizon's journey. In 2011, she etched her name in the annals of history by clinching the coveted "most creative TV Pilot" award from the esteemed NYCIFE, a testament to her ingenuity and vision.

However, Quizon's trajectory transcended the glitz and glamour of red carpets and award ceremonies. Armed with her journalistic acumen and a profound sense of duty, she found herself on the frontlines of history, chronicling seminal moments like President Obama's rendezvous with global leaders at APEC in 2011.

It was in these crucibles of history that Quizon's mettle was truly tested. In 2013, she stood on the tarmac in Honolulu, a solitary sentinel, seeking justice for a disabled veteran denied his rightful prosthetic legs by the bureaucracy. Though the corridors of power remained indifferent, Quizon's unwavering commitment to truth and justice remained undiminished.

Quizon's journey, however, is not merely a chronicle of triumphs and tribulations but a testament to the

indomitable spirit of resilience. Armed with White House Press Credentials, she traversed the tumultuous landscape of American politics, from President Obama's historic presidency to the seismic shifts heralded by President Donald Trump.

Yet, amidst the tumult of political upheavals, Quizon's lens remained focused on the human stories that define our shared humanity. Her recent rendezvous with President Biden, as he served a Friendsgiving Dinner to military troops in Norfolk, Virginia, stands as a poignant reminder of her unwavering commitment to those who serve our nation.

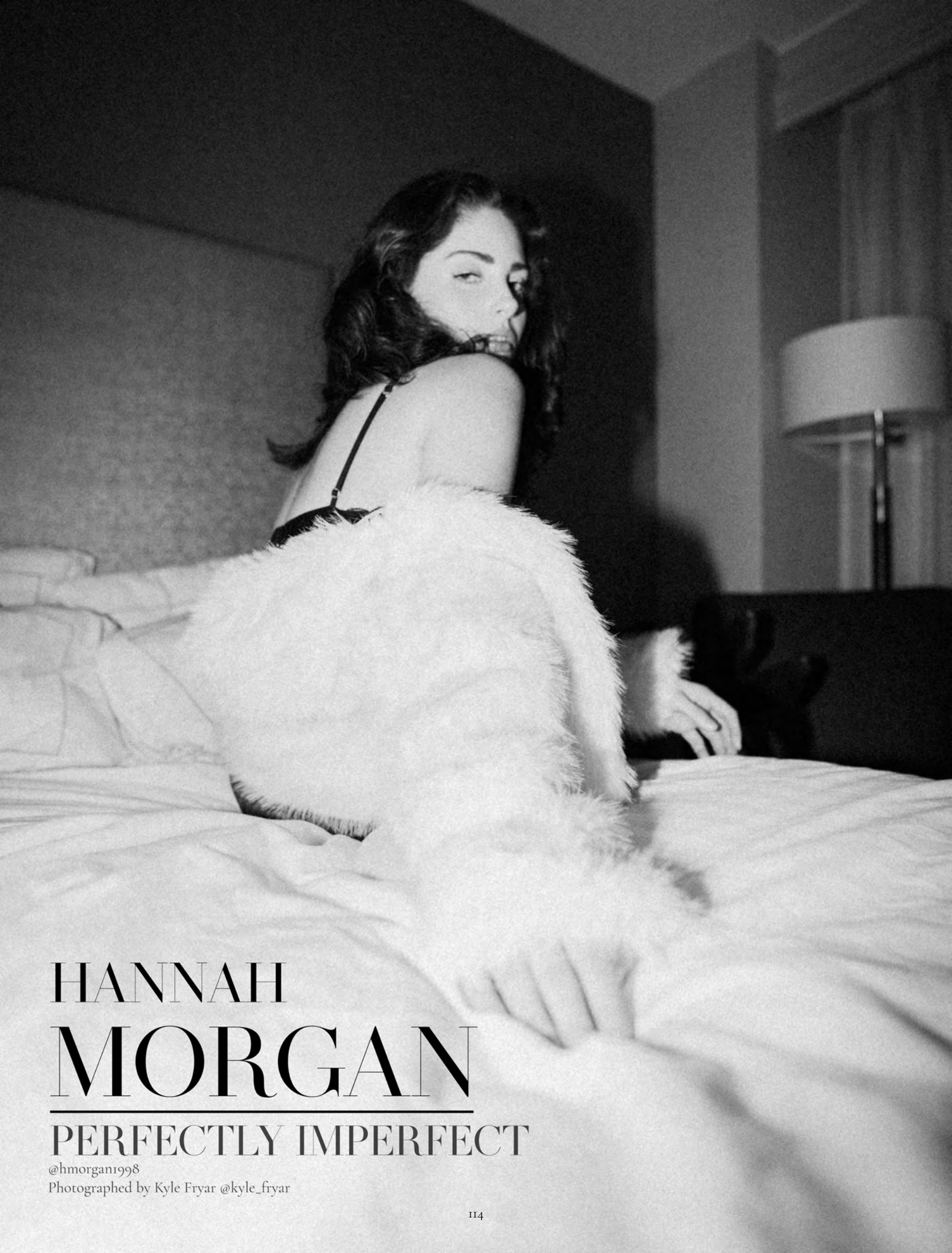
In the frenetic world of media, where deadlines loom large and moments are ephemeral, Quizon's military background serves as her lodestar, guiding her through the labyrinthine corridors of power with poise and purpose.

As Quizon reflects on her journey, she remains steadfast in her belief that her media endeavors are not merely a profession but a continuation of her service to the nation and the global community. For in the kaleidoscope of life, Tina Quizon's journey stands as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path for generations to come.



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