Styles of Resistance: From the Corner to the Catwalk

On View: January 18-February 24, 2019

Curated by: Amy Andrieux, Richard Bryan and Mariama Jalloh

FEATURED DESIGNERS

FEATURED ARTISTS
Alex Blaise, Anthony Akinbola, Aurelia Durand, Barry Johnson, Benji Reid, Dr. Fahamu Pecou, Hassan Hajjaj, Jamel Shabazz, Janette Beckman, Kendall Carter, Lakela Brown, Marc Baptiste, Michael Miller, Righteous Jones (Run P.), Ronnie Rob, TTK, and Victoria Ford.

Themes:
• 70s and 80s
  o Police Brutality in the United States and the Black Panther Party
    ■ How did “self-actualization” and police brutality inspire groups like the Black Panther Party to build the foundation for the birth of hip-hop and streetwear fashion?
  o Graffiti and Social Movements
    ■ How did black and brown communities respond to continued police brutality and poverty globally? What art was produced as a response to these grievances while also building community?
    ■ How did graffiti play a role in advancing the hip-hop movement?

• 90s
  o Michael Jordan and Sneakers
    ■ Jordans quickly became incorporated into streetwear, so they were always in high demand. Because Jordans were vastly consumed by Black people, Jordans quickly became associated with crime and violence.
    ● Spike Lee commercial
  o Streetwear, Urbanwear and Luxury Brands
    ■ Luxury Designers, and NY Fashion week had a disdain for urban fashion. Not only was the word “urban” synonymous to “ghetto”, but this label was used to exclude black designers, and people from big media platforms, fashion shows and stores. As a result, the label “urban” put black brands at a deficit.
    ■ Designers like Dapper Dan resisted luxury brands like Louis Vuitton and Gucci by using their classic prints to recreate pieces that catered to the black community aesthetically and economically.
    ■ Black Women and Streetwear
TOUR NOTES JANUARY 2019
Styles of Resistance

• As the only women in their musical crews, how did female rappers like Lil Kim and Foxy Brown push beyond standard fashion in a male dominated industry?
• How did both women utilize their own personal styles and hip-hop personas to gain the interest of fashion houses and high end designers?

• 2000’s
  ○ Founding Fashion Fathers
    ■ In the 2000’s we saw an instant growth in black owned urban fashion brands. Many of them were hip-hop artists who used their market and artistic influence to carve out a new space in streetwear and high end fashion. Some of these brands are Phat Farm, Sean John and Rocawear.

• Present Day
  ○ Black Lives Matter on the Runway
    ■ Today many designers are showcasing the intersections between social activism and fashion in their clothing. Using their clothes to advocate against police brutality, many of these designers are creating in black spaces, for black people and also empowering black people by bringing their voice to light

Further Context:

As an exhibit, *Styles of Resistance* encourages us to think about the ways in which politics, and centuries of social exclusion have impacted black cultural dress. Streetwear as we know it today was a response to years of continued social exclusion, political and economic grievances, and most importantly a way for black people to love themselves wholesomely through an afrocentric lens. The artists in this exhibit take us through different time periods of street style by using different elements of streetwear culture in abstract visual forms, photography capturing hip-hop culture and fashion in the 80s and 90s; and clothing designed by black designers.
TOUR NOTES JANUARY 2019
Styles of Resistance

Works in Exterior Windows:

Benji Reid
- Style and pattern
- Shattered into a thousand pieces
- Remembering rammellzee
- Spirit of a b boy
- Yellow armor
- Icarus

Works in Central Gallery:

Alex Blaise
- Untitled by Alex Blaise

Anthony Akinbola
- Camouflage 019 (#27) 2018

Barry Johnson
- Untitled 121, 2019
- Untitled 122, 2019
- BLACK, 2019
- Fuck the Crown, 2018

Benji Reid
- B Boy Last Supper
- “Style and Pattern”

Dr. Fahamu Pecou
- “Who You Gon’ Call” - 2018

FWMJ
- “Kanye Doesn’t Care” - 2018
- “Rage”

Hassan Hajjaj
- Wamuhu, 2015

Jamel Shabazz
- “Back in the Day” 1980-1989
- “Dapper Dan” 2018

Janette Beckman
- Salt-N-Pepa, NYC, 1987

Johnny Nelson
- “4 Fingers of Death” Rings
- “Her Freedom” Rings
TOUR NOTES JANUARY 2019

Styles of Resistance

- “Chandelier Razor” Rings
- “African Miskit Fall” Rings

Kendall Carter

- “Effigy for a New Normalcy VII”
  (Accepting Greatness 2), 2017
  14k gold plates, bronzed Air Jordans

Lakela Brown

- “Golden Rope with Hand”
  Plaster and acrylic
  16”x20”x3”
  2019
- “Golden Hearts with Ghost Heart Earrings with Hand”
  Plaster and acrylic
  16”x20”x3”
  2019
- “Chicken Heads with Golden and Ghost Earrings”
  Plaster and acrylic
  16”x20”x3.5”
  2019
- “Golden Bamboo Earrings with Ghost Rope, Earrings, and Teeth”
  Plaster and acrylic
  16”x20”x3”
  2019

Marc Baptiste

- “Aaliyah One in a Million CD Cover Shoot”
- “Big Gippi Joi One World Magazine” 2002
- “The Fugees CD Cover” New York, 1996
- “A Tribe Called Quest” YSB Magazine, 1996
- “Outkast” GQ, 2000
- “LL Cool J” Vibe Magazine 1990’s

Michael Miller

- “Tupac F-U” 1994 (printed 2015)
- “Eazy-E-Eazy Duz It” 1990

PEL

- “Reebok x Social Status”
- “Fila x Frank Cooker”
- “Godwin Bunny Toy”
- “Luxurious Villain Cat Toy”
Ronnie Rob
- "Uneven Exchange" 2017
  36x60. Inches
  Oil, acrylic and collage
  Description: Placed in a common urban NY setting, the piece reflects on the sacrifices one makes physically and spiritually in order to maintain and progress.
- "Commerce" 2016
  65x70 inches
  Oil, acrylic, twine stretched on wood slabs
  Description: multi layered with topics such as American culture, commercialism, African Americans place in regards to the exchange of goods
- Tupac

Righteous Jone
- "Styles of Resistance" Audio, 2019

TTK
- "Can It Be" 2010
- "Healings" 2012

Technodromel
- “Ice Cube”

Victoria Ford
- Selection of Event Photography, 2005-2018
- "Healings" 2012

FEATURED DESIGNERS

coup d’etat BROOKLYN: coup d’etat BROOKLYN is an art and socially responsible clothing and lifestyle brand founded by Rasu Jilani and Daoud Abeid. The company was conceived as a business on Jilani’s stoop in Bedstuy, the place where his activism was realized, where stories from the neighborhood were shared, and the sense of community was reinforced. From this they also created coup d’etat Arts, a platform for creative expression and changes cultural boundaries. Their collective ushered in a Brooklyn-based collaboration between artists to create art-related events and activities around New York City, filling an undeniable void in the arts and culture community. These events have taken places at significant venues such as, Afropunk, BEAT, Skylight Gallery, Mighty Tanaka Gallery, Columbia University, Pratt University, and many others.

Frank William Miller Jr: FWMJ is a graphic designer, journalist, and influencer who has helped to market and break such artists as Jay Electronica, Danny Brown, Nicolay, The Foreign Exchange, Little Brother, J*Davey, Slum Village, Talib Kweli, Black Milk, Chris “Daddy” Dave, Ali Shaheed Muhammad and many others.
https://fwmj.carbonmade.com/about
FUBU: FUBU, or For Us By Us, was founded in 1992 by Daymond Dash, J. Alexander Martin, and Carlton Brown with a line of hats made in John’s house in Queens, New York. However, it quickly became a black powerhouse and conscious fashion brand that attempted to raise awareness of supporting black-owned businesses. The FUBU collection consists of t-shirts, jersey’s, sneakers and hats. Find them on Instagram @fubuthecollection
https://fubu.com/

Freshkills Vintage: A vintage clothing house born from Staten Island streetwear brand and skate retail shop, Richmond Hood Co.
https://www.richmonddhood.com/

Johnny Nelson: Johnny Nelson was born in England and raised in Brooklyn. His biggest influences include Vivienne Westwood, Alexander McQueen, and the iconic neighborhood jewelers that elevated hip-hop culture in the 80s and 90s. He created “Johnny Nelson” in 2017. However, Johnny Nelson Jewelry was brought to fruition long before it’s initial inception. Nelson’s transition into jewelry design began in 2014, when he was on tour and decided it was time to look as good as he felt while performing. His solution? Jewelry. The first piece was an attention-grabbing 3-finger ring, made with stone and wire, that he asked his mom to bring to life. It was then Nelson found he had not just a genuine passion for jewelry, but the raw talent and creative vision to match. In his designs, Nelson draws inspiration from his diverse artistic and cultural experiences that merge punk, hip-hop, and spirituality. The line heavily focuses on statement pieces that spark conversation amongst consumers.Find them on Instagram @Johnnynelsonjewelry.
http://johnnynelson.nyc/

Karl Kani: Karl Kani was founded by Carl Williams in xyz. He started to design clothes at the age of 16. Although he never received formal education in design, he would buy fabrics and tell the tailor exactly how he wanted it to look. After seeing him a lot at clubs and social gatherings, men started to ask Williams for his clothing. Selling clothes outside of his car, he later opened a store in Los Angeles, and officially launched Karl Kani infinity in 1994, Kani Ladies in 2001. Find them on Instagram @Karlkani.
https://www.karlkani.com/

Melody Ehsani: A fashion designer born and raised in Los Angeles. Growing up in a traditional Persian family has inspired her work heavily. Following cultural expectations, Ehsani was on route to becoming a lawyer. However she decided to break with her culture and follow her true passion which was design. She now designs clothing and accessories with the hope that it will empower women in different ways. A portion of her profits goes towards the advancement of women in our society. Find her on Instagram @melodyehsani.
https://melodyehsani.com/

Maurice Malone: In 1993-94 Maurice Malone appeared in his own advertisements and was known as hip-hops bad boy of fashion. Drawing inspiration from his youth fashion design idols, Patrick Kelly and Jean Paul Gaultier who also appeared in their own advertisements, Malone sought to become the Black Designer version of JPG “The Enfant Terrible” of Hip Hop Fashion. The Maurice Malone collection sold worldwide at high-end boutiques and department stores such as Saks Fifth Ave and others.Maurice earned a CFDA nomination for the Perry Ellis Award for Menswear in 1997, which also helped pave the way for other black designers, especially those from the world of Urban & Hip Hop Fashion that followed.Today, as the owner and designer of the Brooklyn based manufacturer, retailer and denim brand Williamsburg Garment Company (WGC), designer Maurice Malone is recognized in the denim industry as one of the
top denim designers in the world. Find him on Instagram @mauricemalone.
https://mauricemaloneusa.com/

Moshood: Moshood Creations and the fashion boutique’s founder Moshood Afariogun have been a fixture at 698 Fulton St., Fort Greene, Brooklyn, for more than two decades. Moshood is known as a beloved international fashion designer, a philanthropist (he has gifted clothes to everyone from local youth groups to political prisoner fundraisers), businessman and community activist. His designs are a representation of a mixture of west African designs and streetwear. Find them on Instagram @moshoodofficial.
https://afrikanspirit.com/

PEL NYC: Visual Griot PEL has permeated the minds of his followers and fans alike provoking thought, feeling and conversation using the news and pop culture as his subject matter. His military and menswear fashion background honed his skills and broadened his artistic horizon with seamless attention to detail. His travels across the globe have helped him to develop a panoptic perspective that is all his own. PEL stands out from others because he wants to have a candid conversation that is not held by the cadence of normalcy. Immersion into different cultures has helped him to interweave different textures of conversation into one fluid roll. Follow him on Instagram @Pellnyc
https://pelny.com/

Philadelphia Print Works: Philadelphia Printworks was founded in 2010 by Maryam Pugh and Ruth Perez. They are a social justice heritage brand, clothing and screen printing workshop with a focus on black artists, revolutionaries and political eras. Follow them on Instagram @philaprint.
https://www.philadelphiaprintworks.com/

PNB Nation: PNB Nation is a pioneering brand that brought together the worlds of hip-hop, graffiti, skating, and all the other subculture that were actually subcultures back in the early ’90s. It was started by a motley crew of kids from all over NYC, and the fusion of uptown/downtown along with the Bronx and Brooklyn. Find them on Instagram @official_pnb_nation.

Sean John: Sean John was founded by Sean "P. Diddy" Combs's in and made its debut appearance in the Spring of 1999 with a mens sportswear collection. The company was an expression of the personality and vision of its founder, and as such, the history of Sean John Clothing was one part of the story of Sean John Combs remarkable rise in the business world. Follow them on Instagram @seanjohn.
http://seanjohn.com/


Studio 189: Rosario Dawson and Abrima Erwiah co-founded Studio One Eighty Nine as an agent for social change. The luxury fashion label’s collections are made in Africa by skilled artisans that celebrate traditional crafts like indigo dyeing, weaving and batik. Follow them in Instagram @studiooneeightynine.
https://studiooneeightynine.com/

Shirt King Phade: In the early days of hip hop, a graffiti artist from New York known as Shirt King Phade created a following with his custom airbrushed t-shirts. In the Eighties, Edwin “Phade” Sacasa transferred his passion for graffiti from the surface of trains to the surface of t- shirts. Fabric became his
new canvas and soon enough, Shirt King Phade, along with his partners “the Shirt Kings”, transferred street culture and street art onto clothing becoming the first to commercialize their graffiti. Some say this was the birth of the streetwear concept. Customization was the hallmark of the Shirt Kings. For every piece and customer, the graffiti was custom-made. Always painted with airbrush, the Shirt King style is immediately recognizable. Remixing pop culture elements and icons, we see Mickey Mouse sporting a gold chain while smoking, the Pink Panther reclining on a champagne bottle, and more. Through their vision, cartoons became badass, and a part of the foundation of graffiti streetwear. Follow him on Instagram @Shirtkingphade.
http://www.shirtkingphade.com/

The Peralta Project: The Peralta Project was founded in 2005 by native New Yorker M. Tony Peralta. Now almost 10 years old, the brand has matured into an extension of Peralta’s original artwork and inventive graphic designs. He mixes New York City Latino grit with hip-hop culture to create designs that resonate with people from all walks of life. Follow him on Instagram @peraltaprojct.
https://peraltaproject.com/

Walker Wear: April Walker the founder of Walker Wear - a heritage lifestyle clothing brand, is known as one of the trailblazers of streetwear fashion. Founded in the early 90’s Walker Wear was one of the first to implement product placements and secure celebrity endorsements. The brand has been donned by greats like Tupac, Run DMC, Barrel Brothers and Joey Badass. Follow them on Instagram @walkerwear.
https://walkerwear.com/

Xuly Bet: Xuly Bët, is a line of clothing designed by Lamine Badian Kouyaté, a Malian fashion designer. He draws inspiration from his home country Mali, while incorporating western designs. He believes that using prints that bring so much color and joy are a symbol of the hope and power that Africans bring to the world.
https://xulybet.com/

FEATURED ARTIST

Aurelia Durand: Aurelia is a French graphic artist based in Copenhagen, Denmark. She was born in 1990 and raised in Paris, but spent four years of her childhood in La Réunion, a French island in the Indian Ocean, off the southern coast of Madagascar. Her time in La Réunion shaped her interests in representing the power and beauty of multiculturalism. With its French, East African, Indian and Chinese cultural influences and heritage, Aurélia describes the island as a place where different communities accept each other. Coupled with her mixed cultural background (Ivorian and French), this experience compelled her to make art which raises awareness about culturally diverse and nuanced stories. Aurélia is inspired by different artistic fields, from contemporary art and product design to photography and film. The colours and shapes from the likes of Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Jeff Koons, Murakami, Yayoi Kusama, and Xavier Veilhan have influenced the striking, lively colours of her work. Aurélia draws and paint but also digitally creates short animations and graphics, because it allows the colours to be more vibrant she says. Her recent works are characterized by Afro-pop culture, in which men and women proudly display afro hair and braids with colourful African prints and edgy fashion accessories. Aurélia also stages her characters in groovy animations in which bodies and patterns dance gracefully on Afro-pop music. Keep up with her on Instagram @4ur3lia.
Anthony Akinbola: Anthony Olubunmi Akinbola is an interdisciplinary Nigerian American visual artist based in Queens, New York. Olubunmi was born in Columbia, Missouri and later moved to his parent’s homeland of Lagos, Nigeria where he attended high school. Olubunmi later moved back to America and settled in New York where he received a BA in Communications and Media at SUNY Purchase College. Through a range of material, Olubunmi’s work aims to question and examine the complexities of an international black identity. Keep up with him on Instagram @heyitsbunmi.

Barry Johnson: Barry Johnson is a self-taught interdisciplinary artist, author and TEDx speaker that works across all mediums and is known to constantly shift the nature of his work as it reflects the events happening around the world and in his life. Keep up with him on Instagram @barryjohnson.co.

Benji Reid: Benji Reid is a creative producer, divisor and director. Benji’s dance background began in 1985, with the GLC Break-- Dance Champions Broken Glass Street Crew, Uk and European Body-- Popping Champion and 2nd in the 1986 World Dance Championships. In 1989 Benji worked with the legendary Soul II Soul as the main dancer and choreographer for their world tour, appearing on the Arsino Hall show and playing at the Soul Train Awards. He formally trained as a dancer with the Northern School of Contemporary Dance University and as an actor with Denise Wong and David Glass. Following his years as a freelance performer he formed physical theatre company Breaking Cycles. In theatre Benji has worked widely with such highly regarded Physical theatre companies as the David Glass Ensemble, Trestle Theatre, and Black Mime Theatre. It was with Black Mime Theatre that Benji first became interested in theatre directing. For over fifteen years Benji Reid has been creating Physical Theatre. His first production was co--directing Jonzi D's solo of 'Aeroplane Man' in 1994 in the the following years he toured 'Paper Jackets', his fist a one---man show he wrote and starred in. In 1998 Benji went on to direct his first main stage play, hip hop musical 'Avalanche' for Nottingham Playhouse – In 2005 Benji received the NESTA Dreamtime Fellowship, awarded to prestigious artists for their outstanding achievements and continuing development and was also nominated for the Art05 award for his work in the North West of England. Keep up with him on Instagram @Benjireid.

Dr. Fahamu Pecou: Dr. Fahamu Pecou is an interdisciplinary artist and scholar whose works combine observations on hip-hop, fine art and popular culture. Pecou’s paintings, performance art, and academic work addresses concerns around contemporary representations of Black masculinity and how these images impact both the reading and performance of Black masculinity. Fahamu received his BFA at the Atlanta College of Art in 1997 and an PhD from Emory University in 2018. Pecou maintains an active exhibition schedule as well as public lectures and speaking engagements at colleges and museums nationwide.

In 2017 Pecou was the subject of a retrospective exhibition "Miroirs de l'Homme" in Paris, France. He is a recipient of the 2016 Joan Mitchell Foundation "Painters and Sculptors" Award. His work is featured in noted private and public national and international collections including; Smithsonian National Museum of African American Art and Culture, Societe Generale (Paris), Nasher Museum at Duke University, The High Museum of Art, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Seattle Art Museum, Paul R. Jones Collection, Clark Atlanta University Art Collection and Museum of Contemporary Art Georgia. Keep up with him on Instagram @fahamupecou.

Hassan Hajjaj: A photographer, designer, and filmmaker, Hassan Hajjaj is one of Morocco’s preeminent international artists, sometimes called his native country’s answer to Andy Warhol. Entirely self-taught and influenced by a mix of London’s hip-hop and reggae scenes and his North African heritage, Hajjaj
has a diverse practice that includes portraiture, installation, performance, fashion, and furniture design. He is best known for his photography, a medium he turned to in the late 1980s and in which he draws influence from Pop Art, fashion photography, and the studio work of Malick Sidibe. His recent work centers on “rockstars,” capturing a range of international musicians and performers in exquisitely composed, radically ornate portraits (and in a film that debuted at LACMA). Keep up with him on Instagram @hassanhajjaj_larache.

**Jamel Shabazz:** Jamel Shabazz was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. At the age of fifteen, he picked up his first camera and started to document his peers. Inspired by photographers Leonard Freed, James Van Der Zee, and Gordon Parks, he was marveled with their documentation of the African American community. In 1980 as a concerned photographer with a clear vision he embarked on a mission to extensively document various aspects of life in New York City, from youth culture to a wide range of social conditions. Due to its spontaneity and uniqueness, the streets and subway system became backdrops for many of his photographs. Shabazz says his goal is to contribute to the preservation of world history and culture. In the past 10 years he has had over two dozen solo exhibitions; “Men of Honor”, “A Time Before Crack”, “Pieces of a Man”, “Represent”, When Two Worlds Meet”, “Back in the Days,” and “Seconds of my Life,” which have been shown from Argentina to The Netherlands, England, Italy, Germany, France, Japan and throughout the United States. Keep up with him on Instagram @jamelshabazz.

**Janette Beckman:** Janette Beckman is a British-born photographer who now lives and works in New York. She began her career at the dawn of punk rock working for music magazines The Face and Melody Maker. She shot bands from The Clash to Boy George as well as three Police album covers. Moving to NYC in 1983 she was drawn to the underground hip-hop scene and photographed pioneers such as Run DMC, Slick Rick, Salt’n’Pepa, Grand Master Flash and LL Cool J. Beckman has published five books: ‘Rap, Portraits & Lyrics of a Generation of Black Rockers’, ‘Made In The UK The Music of Attitude 1977-1983’, ‘The Breaks, Stylin’ and Profilin’ 1982- 1990′, ‘El Hoyo Maravilla’ and ‘The MashUp, Hip Hop Photos Remixed by Iconic Graffiti Artists’. Her work has been shown in galleries worldwide and is in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Museum of the City of New York and the Musée des Civilisations de l’Europe. She is represented by the Fahey Klein Gallery. Beckman continues to chronicle sub-cultures of our generation and as well as working on shoots for fashion brands such as Levis, and Dior. Keep up with her on Instagram @janettephoto.

**Marc Baptiste:** Marc Baptiste, Haitian-American photographer was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. He moved to Brooklyn, NY at an early age. Baptiste picked up photography in the 9th grade, years later upon receiving his BA in Commercial Art and Advertising; he grew to become an influential fashion and portrait photographer. Known for his lighting, beauty, cinematic style and great energy he has documented subjects from Top Celebrities including; Prince, Shakira, Janelle Monae, Erykah Badu, George Luka, Cicely Tyson, Yoko Ono, Misty Copeland and Spike Lee, to his most memorable subjects Michelle and Barack Obama, and Carmen de Lavallade. His photographs have been published internationally in magazines such as Cosmopolitan, Elle (US and SA), Vanity Fair, Esquire, Marie Claire, Esquire, Ebony, Essence and Glamour (US and GR). Baptiste has photographed the advertising campaigns for revered brands such as Nike, Remy Martin, Chevy,
Reebok, L’Oreal, Mizani, and Crest. His commercial work is distinguished for its appeal in global markets. Keep up with him on Instagram @marchaptiste007.

**Michael Miller:** Michael Miller is primarily an abstract painter, but his diverse training in multiple mediums influences his techniques and methods. Miller studied painting with Paolo Frosecchi and instructors at the Art Students League of New York, including Bruce Dorfman, Kikuo Saito, Frank O’Cain, and Larry Poons. He was also an active photographer at an earlier point in his career. One of the most formative experiences of Miller’s professional life took place in 2006 when he moved to Maputo, Mozambique and developed a love for Mapuo designs and the religious objects and crafts of sub-Saharan Africa. Today, Miller paints on both primed and unprimed canvas to better “incorporate visual contamination” in his work. He also makes assemblages with painted canvas cutouts suspended by wire in wooden boxes.

**Righteous Jones:** Sought after for his internationally-acclaimed mixes and dynamic club sets alike, Run P. aka Righteous Jones, sincerely respects the craft of DJ’ing, and is guaranteed to move every crowd. What began at 11 years-old after his mother bought him his first Numark turntables persisted as a hidden hobby for the next six years. Run would cop vinyl from the local Pathmark record shop and quietly hone his skills alone — perfecting his craft, experimenting with sounds from all across the musical divide. Run P. has since garnered a reputation as a seasoned crowd-motivator (DJ), on-air personality (radio), and music supervisor at the forefront of NYC’s dance movement. Through QUENCH, his monthly NYC dance party, Run champions the electronic sounds and thorough basslines of house, disco, R&B, hip-hop, progressive soul, trap, funk, dancehall, afrobeat, and more. Keep up with him on Instagram @run_p.

**Ronnie Rob:** Ronnie Rob is a native of Mt. Vernon who is now residing in Brooklyn. He has always been drawn to the arts and the power it possesses to provoke thought and emotions. With a background in acting and a love for music, literature, and all forms of self expression he chose painting as a means to express his love for the arts. Ronnie strongly believes that whatever you create artistically, the energy that was put into creating it should transfer to the viewer and invoke positivity within them. "Art imitates life and life imitates art”. Keep up with him on Instagram @ronnierobny.

**TTK:** TTK is a Brooklyn-based graphic designer, painter, illustrator and art director. His work combines pop culture, subculture, and typography to produce colorful works and often with complex social undertones. He has created animated lyric videos for DJ Shadow feat Nas, and NORE feat Pharrell Williams for Mass Appeal Records. In 2018, TTK collaborated with Urban Outfitters and released a 3 t-shirt signature capsule collection. An avid record and Polo Ralph Lauren collector, his fans keep up with him on Instagram @GOTTKGO.

**Victoria Ford:** Victoria Ford aka "Sneakshot", has been capturing the essence of some of the best live music shows from an early age, but it wasn’t until 2011, that she decided to share her striking imagery with the world. She has been featured in group exhibitions in New York, Washington DC, and Los Angeles. Her work has appeared in digital form for media outlets such as Billboard, Ebony, Essence, Vogue, The New York Times, Okayplayer, Life & Times, and Lomography. Recently, her work was featured in two books: “MFON: Women Photographers of the African Diaspora,” and “Smithsonian Rock and Roll: Live and Unseen”. Keep up with her on Instagram @sneakshotphotography.