

# **ADRIAN OCTAVIUS WALKER**

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## artist statement

I'm a mixed media artist/photographer who curates experiences based around art and speaking engagements in IRL as well as online.

I am a brand strategist and creative leader that can develop successful campaigns and programs that address challenging problems.

I'm most passionate about setting up individuals for success and driving cultural awareness where it's due. I have a gift for casting the vision of collaboration to persuade others in joining me to accomplish much-needed goals.

Growing a community of brand advocates for an organization is keen for me. I am looking to lead, plan, and collaborate cross-functionally to build a greater photo experience.

**AOW**



## **personal**

I grew up in North City St. Louis Always curious, I describe myself as a contemporary photo-artist who also creates sensitive portraits based on my studies of human interactions within different environments. I lived in several cities like Colorado Springs, New Orleans, Oakland, and now Chicago and I feel each city shaped me for who I am today as a storytelling artist.

I am where I am today because of my curiosity and willingness to learn more about those around me that were in positions I wanted to see myself. I've always had the drive to learn more and go above and beyond to educate myself.

Outside the office, I enjoy freelance projects, as well as personal projects that practice awareness dealing with the Black experience through photography, curation, speaking, installation, and performance.

**apple**

**hometown series – shot on iphone**

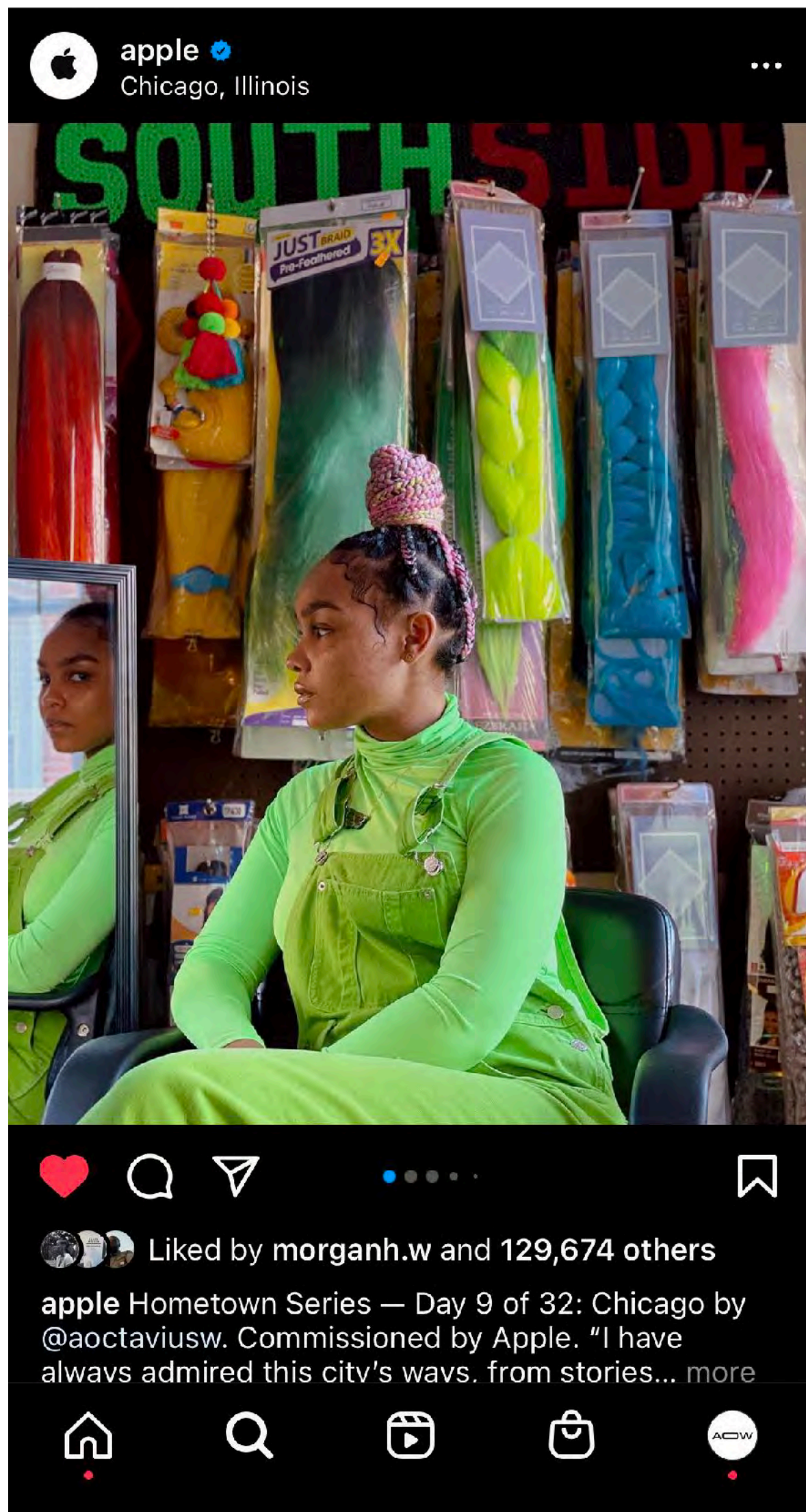
Apple commissioned photographers from all over the country to capture images of the cities they are living in using the iPhone 12 Pro. Apple Hometown series commissioned photo artists from all over the country during the month of February to highlight the experience they take in from their city and showcase a unique lens within what's around them.

**AOW**









**VSCO**

**brand marketing**

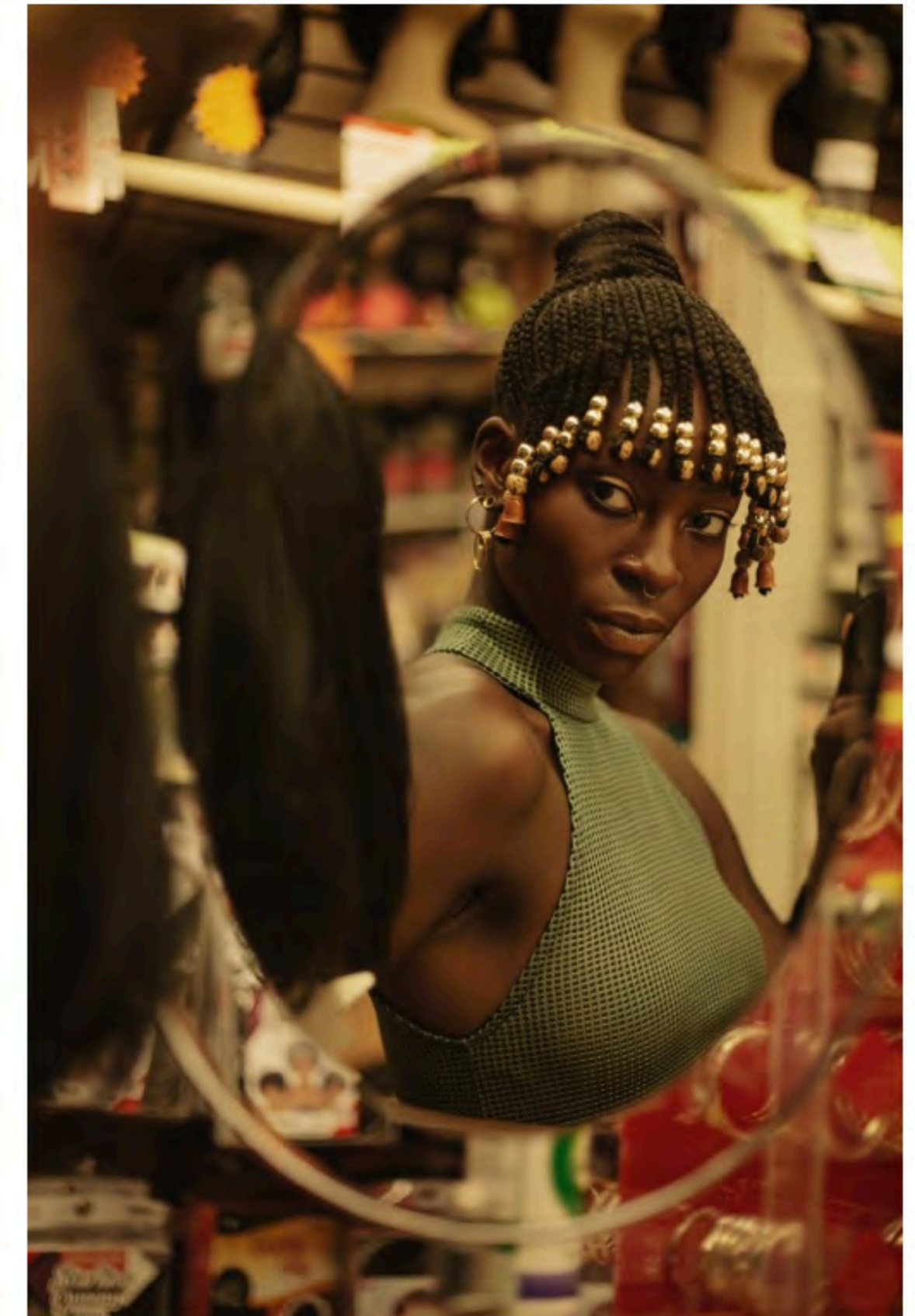
VSCO connected with the community of creators by shaping and sharing stories through in-person events and programs.

As the brand marketing specialist, I established a brand presence by engaging with the community and local creators. I identified opportunities for regional partnerships and built positive experiences and trust between the VSCO brand and creators across the platform and through community events. Some successful events, programs, and brand partnerships that I spearheaded, developed, and executed include Open Studio, Micro Gallery, and VSCO Voices.

**AOW**

# The Hair Appointment

A Micro Gallery exhibit





Josef Adamu in VSCO's Micro Gallery | Image by craighackey





# An Invitation to Create at VSCO HQ

Sign up for VSCO Open Studio — Oakland





**notre**

**notre x nike**

Notre means “ours” and they are beyond a great retail shop, they are skilled brand partners looking to connect with community.

I was able to focus on bringing the creative building experience to life while documenting what teamwork/collaboration looked like while wearing the workwear-inspired Nike Dunk. I lead the photo story creative and the images lived across various online social outlets, and out of home.

**AOW**





**The Editorial:**

To showcase our Dunks and our complementary apparel collection, we'll take a literal approach to "team building": working together, as a team, to build the frame of a structure, wrapping it in custom-branded housewrap, capturing content during the building process, and then shooting a proper, elevated, on-model editorial at the site once building is complete.

**My Participation:**

The tagline for Notre's Nike Dunk collaboration was "Built in the Midwest, together", which refers to the collective work it took to get Notre to this point, as well as the team effort that was needed to create this specific project with Nike. I captured the editorial portion of the campaign, which in addition to a model shoot, included the team building a wooden structure from the ground up, over the course of a single day. I photographed the beauty of the structural design as well as the product that the brand launched. I successfully documented the teamwork and the energy that was tangible to all on set.





**notre** • Follow

**notre** The Crew. @nike x @notre by @aocavusw

6w

**aocavusw** 🙏❤️🙏

6w 1 like Reply

**rkeen.03** If I don't get these ima cry

Liked by aocavusw and 5,982 others

JANUARY 16

Add a comment... Post

**notre**

Liked by darrennesbitt and 11,088 others

**notre** For our inaugural collaboration with @nike, we wanted to pay homage to classic workwear—a symbol of the Midwestern work ethic we hope... more

View all 173 comments

**sarehollander** 🔥🔥🔥 I want some ❤️

**bms3an** 🔥🔥

January 15

**levi's**

**levi's made & crafted fw 20**



Levi's asked photographers to shoot a close friend (spouse, partner, brother, sister) or two that has been supportive over the last few months during such an uncertain time. Highlighting the meaningfulness of that connection with a quote from the photographer to accompany the photos.

**AOW**







# FRIENDS & FAMILY



BY  
ADRIAN OCTAVIUS  
WALKER



Liked by nealppowell and 285 others

levismadeandcrafted "When asked to shoot for this new collection, I knew exactly who my sitters would be. With such a deep connection to culture... more

View all 9 comments

pbbt look at all these coolasses @aocavusw @imanimoon @\_desmoney

\_desmoney ❤️!!



levismadeandcrafted • Follow ...



levismadeandcrafted Portrait of @imanimoon quarantining in Chicago

The photographer behind this series, Adrian Octavius Walker is a mixed-media artists whose work is inspired by the black body, dynamics of the black family, and archival work related to the African American experience.

Photo by @aocavusw

#MadeandCrafted

23w



Liked by aocavusw and 568 others

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020



Add a comment...

Post

**google**

**still dreaming**

To celebrate MLK Day 2021, collaborated with Google/Google Arts and Culture to launch “Still Dreaming” a miniature museum with rare photos of MLK created by Tammie Knight, designer and owner of Small Matters Miniatures, with photography from Google Arts & Culture archives curated by myself. I led creative ideation, video direction (Captured by Nate King, Pixel photographer I recommended) and photography curation.

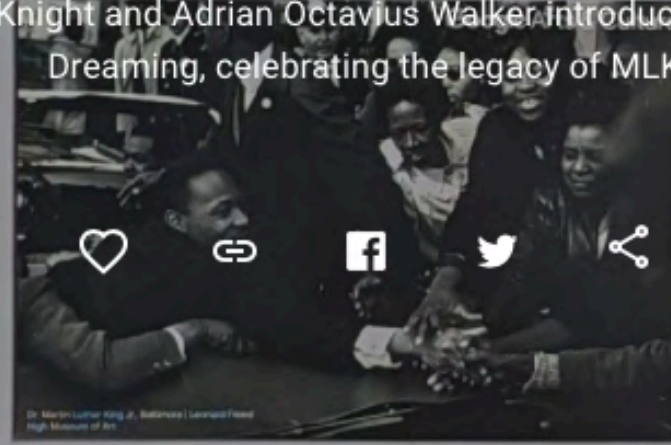
**AOW**



# Monumental Miniatures: Modelling the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Listen along as Tammie Knight and Adrian Octavius Walker introduce their miniature exhibit, Still Dreaming, celebrating the legacy of MLK

"Dr. King was determined to fulfil his dream of one day be treated as an equal. He continuously took action in service of that dream, even when the outcome was uncertain. These images capture his drive and passion that inspired others to dream of equality in the face of uncertainty, both then and now."  
- Adrian Octavius Walker, Photographer & Curator



By Google Arts & Culture





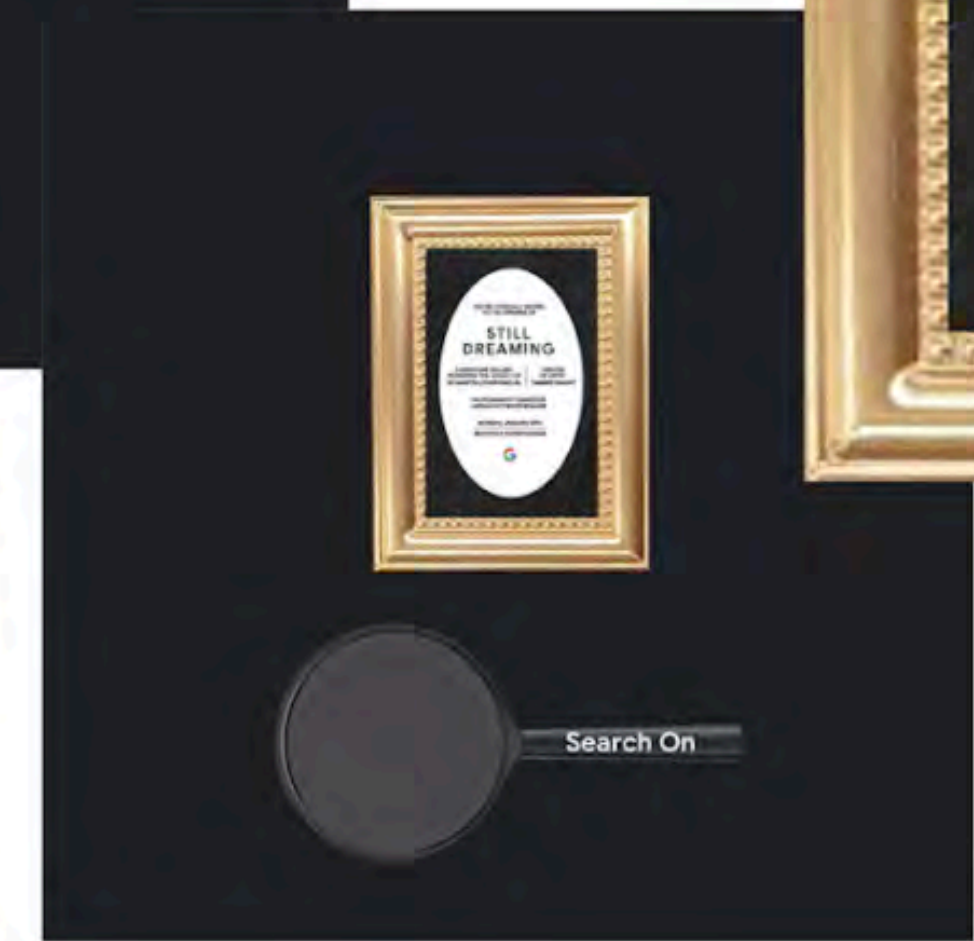


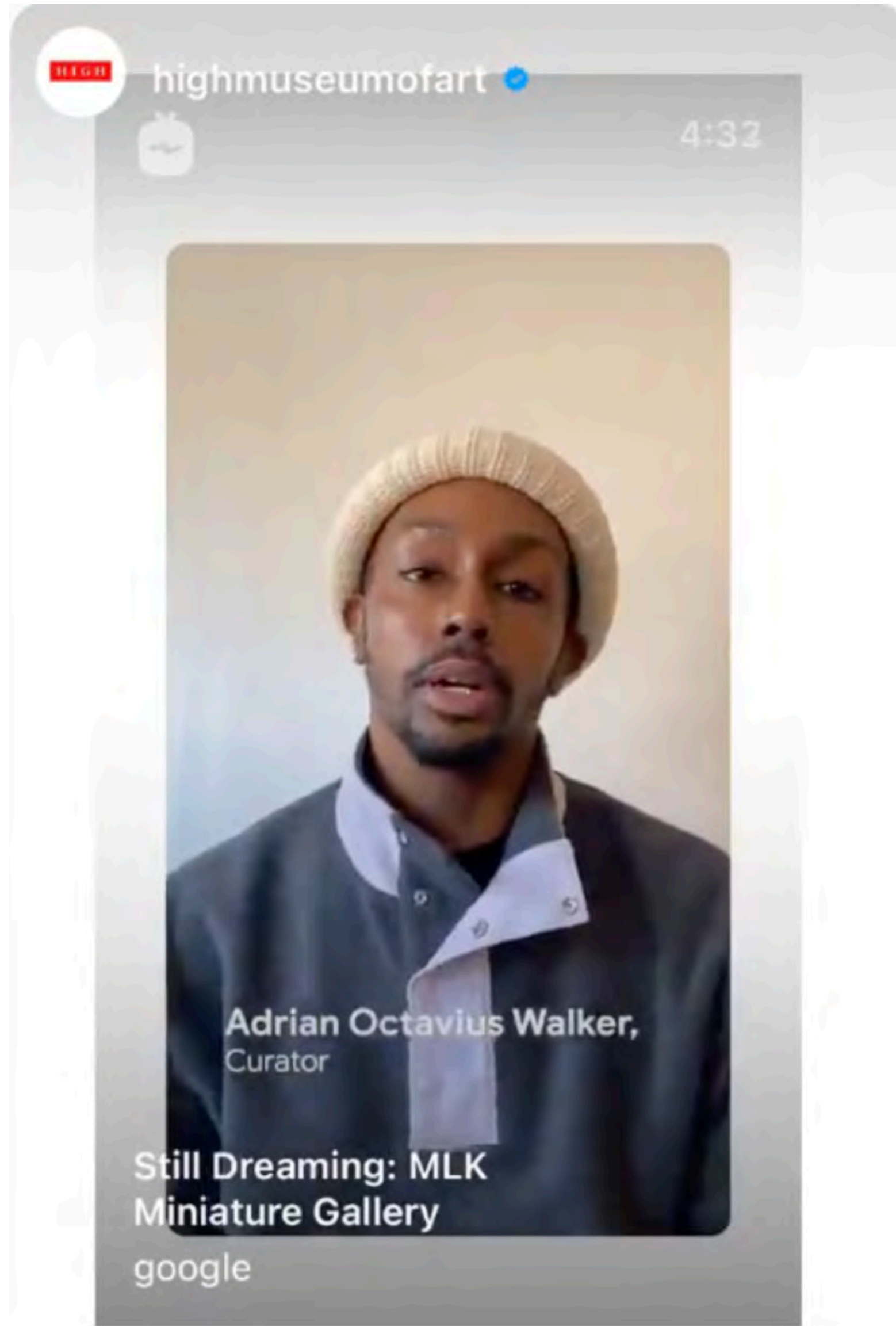
poizonivythedj  • Following ...



poizonivythedj  Still Dreaming. Thank you Dr. King for dreaming for us all, may your work and dream never be diminished. Also thanks to @aoctaviusw and @Google @googleartsculture for this wonderful memento. Y'all be sure to check out Adrian's gallery honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. today on @google 's Instagram! 🙏

1w





**google**

**march on washington 2020**

Commissioned by Google to advise recommendations for photographers to capture March on Washington 2020 and curated past Vs. present examples of March on Washington to tell the story. Bringing awareness to racial equity protests and key moments in America's past. Both artists were captured in this interview on Google Arts and Culture IGTV.

**AOW**

2020



Photographer Nate Palmer

1972



Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm / Library of Congress | Thomas J. O'Halloran National Women's History Museum

Adrian Octavius Walker is a multimedia photographic artist whose work explores black bodies, families, and the untold stories buried in African American archives. Here, he shares his thoughts on images of the struggle for equality, past and present.



Julien James (1)



"Each image shows a protester out standing for their rights and what they truly believe in when it comes to Gay rights. We are still in a constant battle with those who choose to date their own sex or even fight for their correct pronouns. The fight still continues."

**hella creative**

**hellajuneteenth2020**

HellaJuneteenth, is a movement toward properly recognizing Juneteenth as a national holiday formed by Bay Area based HellaCreative in 2020. Our goal was to leverage collective power as creatives in the community to present inspiring imagery, critical resources, and media that would empower a lasting impact on the way the holiday is acknowledged and celebrated moving forward in the US.

Through the HellaJuneteenth movement made up of 11 volunteers, we aggregated and authored resources to help people and companies honor Juneteenth. We wanted companies to know that we're committed to see them establish this as a holiday, even without federal recognition. We wanted to equip people who have influence with visual media to express its importance to the country and society as a whole.

**AOW**



I served the project as Art Director working collaboratively with the design team in curating artwork and photographic imagery that became the principal driver of the 2020 campaign's success. My work was directly responsible for what partnering agencies described in these words "not only were the HellaJuneteenth website and social media content educational, they also elevated the HellaJuneteenth movement and served as added value to the media visually. Having strong, compelling imagery is a must to bring stories to life." My creative leadership was a harmonious partnership with the creative design leadership of Quinnton J Harris to identify art and images aligned with the desired impact of the design artifacts, materials and event production hosted by HellaJuneteenth. The level of precision and organization drove forth deliverables with high quality and aligned team buy-in. I am a creative leader and people connector who demonstrates a unique voice and ear to empower others while executing on project goals.

**AOW**



**wearehellacreative** • Following



Chicago, Illinois



**wearehellacreative** For the next seven days, [@wearehellacreative](#) will examine the multifacetedness of 'What Freedom Means' through the lens of the Black American experience. We will highlight the creations of black individuals, share resources, and focus on pivotal call to actions for the institutional advancement of the Black community.

[#hellajuneteenth](#) [#juneteenth](#)

37w



**milesdotson** Ready for Juneteenth!



37w Reply



Liked by [aocavusw](#) and 152 others

JUNE 13, 2020



Add a comment...

Post



“

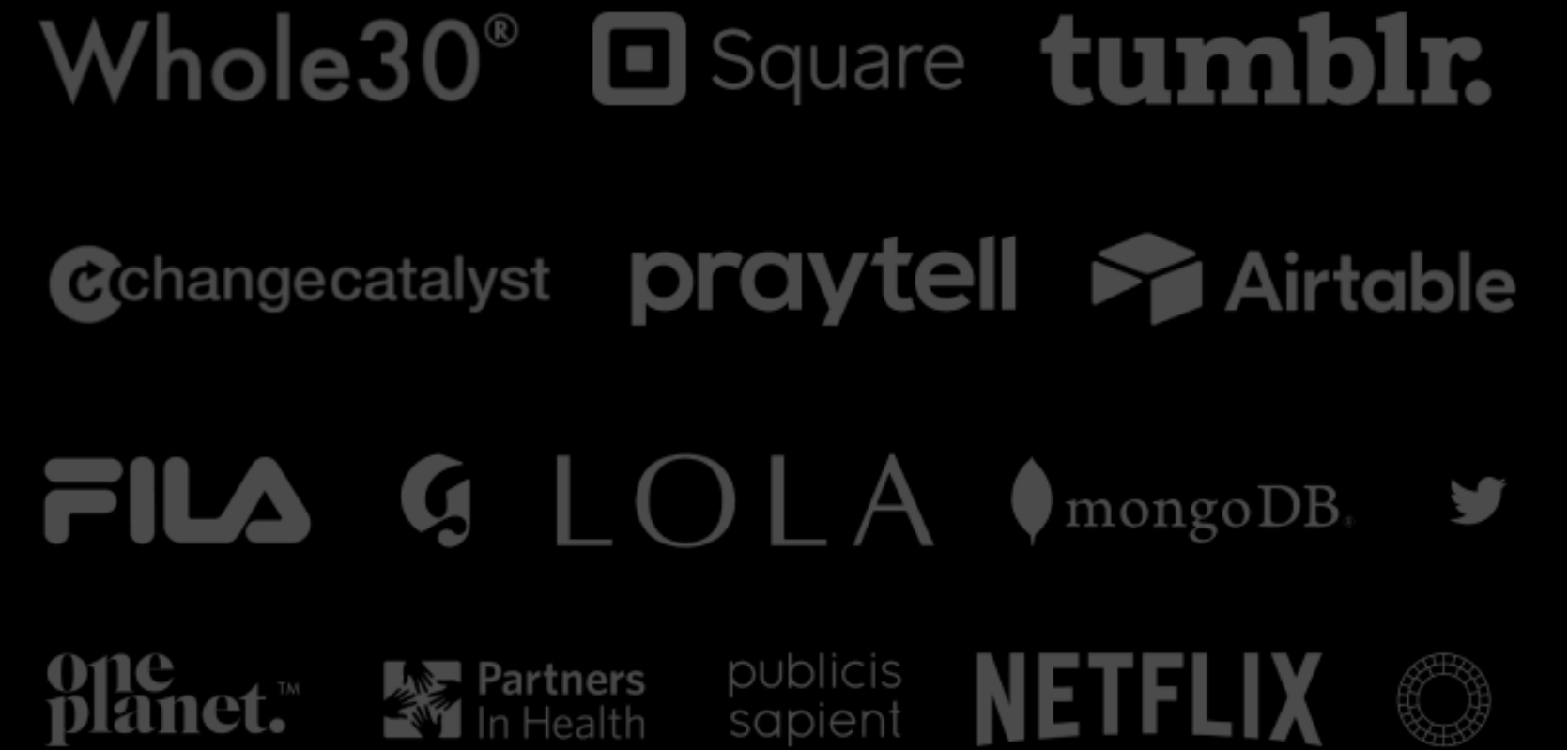
From hence forth,  
we decree  
Juneteenth as a  
national celebration  
for restoration and  
freedom of  
Black America.



# 655+

## Companies

Companies across industries joined the [#HellaJuneteenth](#) initiative and committed to observe Juneteenth. We continue to welcome those ready to publicly commit to the movement.



# 250k+

## Individuals

Employees and business owners from all walks of life benefited from the use of our resources to advocate for the recognition of Juneteenth

# 50+

## World Class Creatives

Members of the [HellaCreative](#) community and volunteered their time and energy to join our expression for freedom and liberation. This included design leader and entrepreneur [Jason Mayden](#), super-producer and professor [9th Wonder](#), Smithsonian acclaimed artist [Adrian Octavius Walker](#), up-and-coming Bay Area artists [Jane Handcock](#) and [ASTU](#), and many more.

# 256m+

## Unique Impressions

We went viral across social media, esteemed publications and internal corporate communications.

*The New York Times*

**ADWEEK**

**protocol**

***HUFFPOST***

*San Francisco Chronicle*

**FORTUNE**

**AP**

*THE Hollywood REPORTER*

**ELLE**

**AOW**