



SYNECDOCHE

Style Embodied

A Photo Series by
Kennedy Ware

TO FLY GUYS EVERYWHERE.

MAY WE KNOW THEM.

MAY WE BE THEM.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I am a multi-media artist with a primary focus on film and photography. In my work I aim to explore the interaction between the meta and micro, systems and the personal. I am specifically interested in full representations of marginalized people, people whose existence is represented in tropes or simplifications, or whose existence is rarely acknowledged or represented at all. I aim to create work that can be analyzed on a multiplicity of levels. I seek to find the intersections of dualities, creating work that is both critical and kind, heavy and humorous, and acknowledges what is while still daring to imagine what should be.

Ultimately, I believe in the ability of art to liberate, to make both those who create work and engage with such work to understand and feel understood. I believe in the power of story-telling to connect people and ideas, to inspire critical independent thought, and to push culture forward.

With this being said, I create for empathy.

I create for liberation.

Acknowledging beauty and the ugly too.

PROJECT STATEMENT

In literature a synecdoche refers to when a part is used to represent the whole. It is my belief that personal style functions as visual synecdoche for our identities. I view getting dressed each day as more than a pragmatic exercise, but rather a chance to decide what we would like to share with the world about ourselves. Often others will use these choices as a heuristic to determine who they believe we are. It is my hope to slightly alter this process, and that this series probes viewers to approach each photo contemplating what the subject wishes to communicate rather than focusing solely on your personal interpretation messages they receive upon first glance.

In this photographic series I explore the ways in which and the extent to which personal style conveys one's unique identity. Focusing solely on black men, ages 18-25, I hope to disrupt the viewers inclination to limit interpretations of the subject's style choices to the political, while forcing the viewer to reconcile that personal style is inherently that. As all subjects styled themselves, their only instruction was to include an element that they consider signature to their personal style. I challenge viewers to interrogate each subject, while still considering the works as a collective. Ultimately, I hope that this series will leave the viewer with the sense of a style that is distinctively black and youthful, while privileging the choices and voice of each individual captured.















SPECIAL THANKS TO

Delmar Kaiser
Tony Ware II

