

KULTURE

MAG

ISSUE 1







VICE

ISSUE ONE



TO THE KULTURE

Experience **Life!** And appreciate it. Appreciate every moment and every second you get. Why? Because life is **Dope**, and when you realize that, the world that you see around you begins to change. I heard this quote that said, “The difference between a good day and a bad day is not life’s lemons, but your attitude.” Remember that, because it can make you a **“Billionaire.”**

What will also make you successful is knowing that life will always give you an option. For example, while some people choose to fit in, there are others who make a conscious choice and decide to stand out. Don’t let your deepest fear tell you that you are inadequate; because in fact, William Ernest Henley said it best when he said we are **“Powerful Beyond Measure.”** You can’t be powerful without going through something. Life has a best friend called experience, a teacher we all come face to face with. It’s through our experiences that our journey of identity is defined.

Each person has a story, and *KultureMAG* is the home of the footprints left by the influencer’s of our generation. During the curating of this magazine, there were three goals in mind: to provide something for a generation to call their own, to develop a publication that would highlight the successes of young professionals in the realms of art, music, photography and many other facets that make *Kulture* within cities/states across the nation and to provide for a generation tools that can carry them throughout their journey.

KultureMAG is home to a “*Kulture’s*” journey to success that will help shape the world.

“**Lost**” has been a word that described this growing generation, but a lost generation to me might be one that is searching to create, and as the world may describe this generation as lost, *KultureMAG* will remain as a guide. This is *KultureMAG*: the guide for a generation aiming to shape the world.

WELCOME TO THE KULTURE

Sincerely,

Valentine

Instagram: @VisionaireValentine

KL
TR
MEDIA

CONTENT

THE DEFINITION...6

ANoyD...14

HOW MUCH A DOLLAR COST? ...20

BLK FRAME VISION...21

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS...22

SAMMIE DOES IT...23

JESSICA KEENE...26

KRISTIN ARMANI...28

WHEN YOU WAKE UP IN THE MORNING, DO YOU REMIND YOURSELF THAT YOU ARE THE M.V.P.? BECAUSE EVERYDAY IS GAME DAY.

SELECT YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Culture

[Kul-Cher]

5. the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group:
the youth culture; the pop culture.

(Source: Dictionary.com)

KULTURE

[Kul-Cher]

1. A group and/or collective of passion driven individuals expressing themselves through fashion, art, music, hobbies, life and innovation with a purpose of inspiring the world through their social and economic impact.
2. A group of individuals who overlook the idea of defeat and continue the pursuit of happiness and social impact.

(YOUR NAME)

ESURIENTEM MANERE

(TRANSLATE ME)

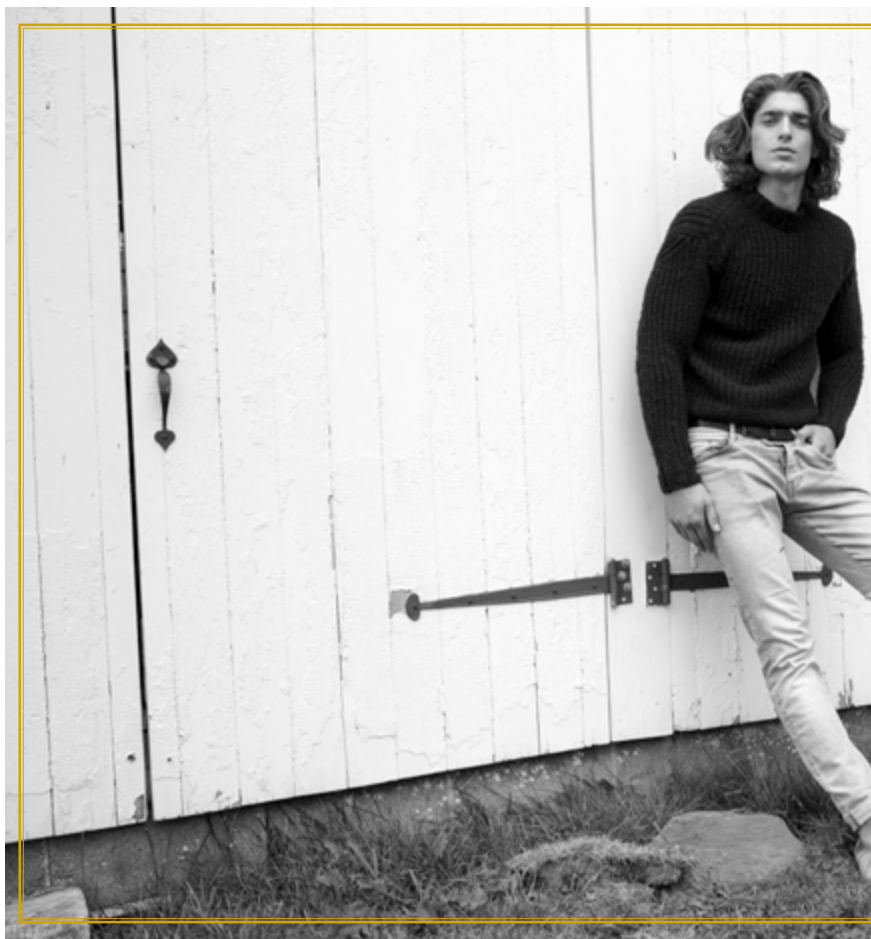


STYLE

Dear KultureMAG,
I read this weaving sketchers.
I think...I may have broken the rules.

TRA.
EVOLI

Fashion has **NO RULES**, when you don't let the clothes wear you.



Growing Up,

I never had the latest gear, instead I'd wear hand-me-down Nike's. My eyes were always glued to the retro air Jordan 11's my classmates would rock back to school following the holidays. Though I never understood the concept of reselling the same shoe, that never meant much to me. I wanted to fit in. My mother worked hard. She was my role model, but I wanted to be just like them. While chasing the vanity I forgot one of the most important things in my life. Whose life I was living. I forgot who I was. It's important to know yourself.

-A. Stoen



“It’s a new era in fashion - there are **no rules**. It’s all about the individual and personal style, wearing high-end, low-end, classic labels, and up-and-coming designers all together.”

- Alexander McQueen





THE VIBRANT EYE

"MY BROTHERS AND MY FAMILY HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN ME, BUT IT TOOK A WHILE FOR EVERYONE ELSE TOO."

AN0YD

DASHORN WHITEHEAD (@LIVINANDYD)

AUGUST 6TH, 1992

BLOOMFIELD, CT

My story is about a young man coming out of a small state with big dreams. I never go out much, unless I'm networking, going to the studio, going out with the family or performing. My story is pretty disciplined; work as hard as I can to be one of the greatest to ever do it. When it's all said and done, I wanna be remembered for my hard work and discipline.

PHOTOGRAPHY | SHAUN LLEWELLYN @SHAUNLLEWELLYN

Creativity can begin anywhere and when you walk into ANoyds creative space you enter into a "new world"; a world surrounded by posters of hip-hop pioneers, noticeably serving as role models. ANoyds wall is drowned in pages of ink stained, leaf note paper. A sea of lyrics consume the room; his thoughts are surround sound in correspondence with the walls. In the room sits a computer monitor, speakers and a bed, all tools used in the creative experience. In white, "LivinANoyd" is spray painted on the wall. A daily reminder that will never be forgotten. *KultureMAG* had the opportunity to get personal with Connecticut born rapper, ANoyd.

What was growing up in Bloomfield, Connecticut like?

It was pretty dope; I'm thankful my mom worked as hard as she could to get us out of a bad neighborhood in my earlier years. Growing up in Bloomfield was pretty quiet,

nothing too crazy ever popped off. I was always with my homies balling, playing video games or just hanging out at my crib staying out of trouble. My circle was really, really small so we were the low-key Bloomfield heads.

In your song, *Altitude*, you made reference to losing your job, where did you work? That moment you lost your job what was next for you?

I worked at JCPenney's Warehouse as a security officer. When I lost my job I was so ready for the next stage in my life. I walked out the office and dapped up all my homies and told them "It's go time". They could see it in my eyes; I was ready to take this journey in music. I called my mom and manager and told them "It's go time, This is all I got now".

Describe your music in one word?

Free!

You call yourself ANoyd. Who is ANoyd where did the name come from? (What does it mean?)

I'm ANoyd. I came up with the name because I'm "annoyed" with



the way life and the way music is. I have to speak about the annoyances in life so that name fits me.

Who is Dashorn Whitehead? Would you consider Dashorn & ANoyd the same person or do you separate the two?

I definitely consider them the same right now in my career 'cause it's so early in it that fusing the two is never a problem. I'm giving the world everything in my music. I'm giving y'all the real me every time you hear me, so right now I don't separate the two that much, but I can say certain things in my household as Dashorn, that I can't say on Twitter as ANoyd.

In high school what type of student were you?

Quiet student, never said much in class. I just did my work and hung out with the same homies. I hated high school, I barely passed; because I hated math so much, I skipped that class like every day I had it. I wish I would have did some things different in high school like focus more, but it only made me who I am today. So I don't regret it. **If you're in high school, go to all your classes and enjoy those four**

years of your life because it goes by quickly.

What's your process when creating music?

It's always a different process, but I usually have song titles and concepts in my phone and in my head already so all that's left is production. So Rich-Breed or 2WO4OUR would have a couple beats for me and I would just put the beat on and just mumble what I feel in a Voice Memo. I can't give away too many gems so Ima keep it right there, haha.

"IF YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL, GO TO ALL YOUR CLASSES AND ENJOY THOSE FOUR YEARS OF YOUR LIFE BECAUSE IT GOES BY QUICK."

ANoyd (@LivinANoyd)

WHAT
WOULD
LIFE
BE LIKE
IN NEW
SKIN?

SHEA

/SHē,SHā/ NOUN



"I WOULD PRAY TO GOD AND TELL HIM I'M EXCITED TO MEET HIM AND ALL THE GREATS UP ABOVE."

Not making the *XXL* freshman list for the 2019 year, do you think it was your time? What must you accomplish to feel you're ready or deserving?

In my head I'm going to always feel like it's my time. To the world, they have to see more from me, everyone in the world doesn't know who ANoyd is, so I have way more work to do. I have to at least have more masterpieces out to show that I can spar with the best.

Every time you perform you give a show to remember. And for each show you perform, you make it tough for other acts to follow. What type of experience do you want to leave the people with?

I want to leave people with that "This guy is going to be legendary" feeling. I give it my all no matter what because I perform for myself; I want to be better than my last performance every time. No better feeling than being on that stage, so it's just fun having all eyes on me for however long I am on that stage.

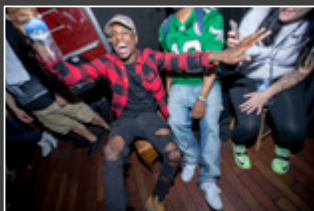
What was it like for you being at the BET Awards?

Best experience of my life by far. Being so close to many people I look up to was amazing. Being there showed me how close I am to being there, I just have to keep working hard and pushing my pen.

When you went to SXSW, was this your first time in Texas? Being around artists like Nick Grant, Desiigner and performing on several stages. Did you feel like you were in the right place? Do you believe you're in the same caliber as Cole & Kendrick?

I honestly felt like I belonged there, because I do the same thing they do. Nothing different, they just worked hard and got there before me. I do believe I'm in the same caliber as Cole and Kendrick, I'm cut from that same cloth; I have the potential to be just as great. They have so many bodies of work and they have proven themselves already so it's going

"IT'S POSSIBLE WITH HARD WORK, DEDICATION AND BEING YOURSELF."



to take some years for me to be in the position. As time goes on I will progress and grow as an artist just like they did.

If today was your last day on Earth, what would you do?

Have someone with all my unreleased music hold on to it, and drop new ANoyd records from time to time when I'm gone. I would spend it with my family and friends just eating food and enjoying the last bit of life I got. *I would pray to God and tell him I'm excited to meet him and all the greats up above.*

What makes Nas your favorite rapper?

His cadence, the way he puts his words together, the feeling you get when you hear *Illmatic* front to back is ridiculous. You actually feel like you're in Queens Bridge listening to Nas. *It Was Written, Stillmatic*, everything he ever put out to me was just Gold. I just love the way he told stories, I'm a huge story teller,

so I got a few pointers from him just by listening to him everyday.

The Legacy--you hope to Leave?

I want to leave the fact that I'm from this small city in Connecticut and I did exactly what I said I was going to do, be the best ANoyd I can be and show everyone that it's possible with **hard work, dedication and being yourself.**



GENIUS

"Heres to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The trouble-makers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently...they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius."

Steve Jobs

#KForKulture



TRUSTED VOICE

HOW MUCH A DOLLAR COST?

Success isn't always how it seems

By Johnny Guillmete

His Converse All-Stars barely covered his feet and his soles wore through, a testament to his nomadic lifestyle. With each step, the white rubber tips flapped like the tongue of a panting dog. He was great at soccer, and devilishly handsome. I don't think there was a woman in the village who didn't admire him; even the children of the village loved him.

His name was Dowda. We first met on the sandy country side of Senegal during a service trip I had taken to Africa. He followed our service group and helped us as we renovated schools. Dowda was an interesting person, who spoke cryptically. He answered questions like the baboon from the Lion King:

"Where are you from?" I once asked.

"Earth," He said, "How about you?"

It was impossible to get a straight answer out of him, but you could tell that his response was always put together carefully. His success shown through his smile. Dowda, had little money. Yet, he managed to fill his life with the things he loved to do.

In Senegal, a life of community, soccer, art, and music takes priority over western philosophy of material wealth. The word success translates

flawlessly from language to language. However, the cultural definition is different across borders.

Where I'm from, a white picket fence, a thriving 401K, and a college degree are key variables included in the widely used definition of success. Dowda, like many people across the globe, are unqualified to claim this standard of success.

The second I left America, my predisposed idea of success became obsolete. My epiphany came at that exact moment of understanding. According to my observation, success is a subjective term that varies from person to person. The key to success is identifying how success is defined by you.

When I checked back into the country, I did not re-adopt the American dream. I tried to preserve the optimistic definition of success that I discovered.

It's hard to maintain my position, and I admit that I forget it from time to time. The world I grew up in can sometimes deem my goals unrealistic, discouraging me from my own success. However, I make sure to fall asleep in a tree every now and then, or get hit with a mango. Then it all comes back.

**"THE MOST
SUCCESSFUL
MAN I'VE EVER
MET
HAD
HORRIBLE
SHOES."**



He's strain at me in disbelief
My temper is built in,
he's strain at me, I grab my key
He's strain at me, I started the car, then I tried to leave
And somethin' told me to keep it in park until I could see
The reason why he was mad at a stranger
Like I was supposed to save him
Like I'm the reason he's homeless and askin' me for a favor

Kendrick Lamar



SMILE

In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.

Theodore Roosevelt

To Everyone who Dreams,

11 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR DREAM'S Reality!

- Wake Up: The Dream was just the idea. Now is the Time to Start.
- By the way there's No "Perfect Time" to start.
- Have Faith: Majority of things in life we can't control.
- Coincidences are more like predestined footprints coming in alignment. Be Thankful for them!
- Write Everything Down: All ideas become useful.
- Believe in Yourself.
- Never Dismiss Opportunity. Our journey has a way of supplying us with tools that our dreams never showed us in the longrun.
- If you're following your dream, don't pay attention to roads that lead to nowhere.
- Believe in Others!
- Love what you do!
- Surround yourself with people who are following their dream.

SINCERELY,
THE FUTURE YOU



We all have a purpose, art just happens to be mine

Creating the Universe in 6 days w/ only 1 day of rest. No Artist can beat that.
-Unknown

@SAMMIEDOESIT

SAMPSON

THE ARTIST



Just watch how the cloud move. See how patient they are.

Home: Cleveland, Ohio

Pencil or Pen: Pencil

Color or B&W: Color

Rap or R&B: R&B

2000's or 90's: The 90's but I'll take the 80's over both

Fresh Prince or Martin: Martin

"I'M STILL DEVELOPING MY STYLE."

Art is a testament to our creativity. Sampson the Artist is a man of distinguishable talent, artistic ability and is unique in every-sense of the word. A resident of Cleveland, Ohio, Sampson's art manages to extend worldwide. His eagerness to understand the idea of "creation for creating" is displayed through his work. He is a family man who embraces vibrancy, colorful dynamics and continues his effort in developing a style of art he can happily call his own. While inspiring through his calling, Sampson manages to find peace of mind not only in his art and music, but in his wife and daughters. *KultureMAG* had the opportunity to work with Sampson the Artist on the Cover for issue number one. After continuous communication and the curating of several drafts, a final product was delivered. This is his story.

When did you start your career as an artist?

Well, my "moms" said I started doodling and drawing around 3yrs old. I guess I never really put the pencil down after that. From 6th to 12th grade, I attended the Cleveland School of the Arts where I majored in art.

What would you call your style of art and how did you find it?

Actually I feel like I'm still developing my style, but whatever it is that I'm doing now, I think it developed from being sort of lazy/unorganized. I don't know how to explain it. I just keep exploring new things.



How did being in the Navy change your outlook on the world?

Man it changed a lot. I know we all know that there's more to the world beyond our cities or state, but I was able to interact and learn things that I probably would not have had the chance to without the Navy. Being overseas, I was introduced to many different cultures and it was amazing. I mean I've seen the good and the bad in other countries from the opportunity I had to travel in the Navy.

What do you hope for your art to do?

During that moment, when someone stares or compliments my work, I want them to forget

about whatever problems or worries they may have. I think my work could do the same for the world through murals and just spreading my art around.

Were there doubters and if so, how did you overcome them?

Honestly, if there were, I didn't know about them. I try and have tried to keep myself around positive people. I have doubted myself a few times in the past and overcame those doubts by "just doing it!"

What would you like to tell this generation?

Work hard, play hard and you can get to where you want to get in this world.



“MY MOMS SAID I STARTED DOODLING
AND DRAWING AROUND 3YRS OLD. I GUESS I NEVER REALLY
PUT THE PENCIL DOWN AFTER THAT.’

-Sampson the Artist

@QUEEN_KEENE
JESSICA KEENE

Model x Stylist

Daniel Hand High School 19'

LOCATION: NEW HAVEN, CT
PHOTOGRAPHY: @SCARLO.PHOTOGRAPHY (SYDNEY CARLO)



LOCATION: NEW HAVEN, CT
PHOTOGRAPHY: @LAUREN_GALLUZZI (LAUREN GALLUZZI)



PHOTOGRAPHY: @EXISTENCE | STONEY GARLO
LOCATION: NEW HAVEN, CT

What's Your Why?

My dad is an artist, so I grew up going to art shows. I was always more interested in the photography than the paintings because the models were alive. I could feel what they felt. I love how adjusting the position of your face and/or repositioning your arm can create a new shape and mood. Modeling is so raw and exposing, but in a beautiful way. I feel so vulnerable while modeling because the camera can capture everything.

But that's what I love about it; you can't hide.



KRISTIN ARMANI

KRISTIN ARMANI RUTTY

MAY 15, 1994

HOMETOWN: NEW ROCHELLE, NY

Favorite Food: Chicken Teriyaki or Sushi (nom nom nom!)

Favorite Color: BLACK

Favorite Song: Anything sung by Corrine Bailey Rae

Tyra Banks Or Naomi Campbell: Naomi

Rihanna Or Karrueche: Rihanna

R&B or Pop: R&B

“Practicing modeling is actually quite funny. It’s a lot of time standing in front of a mirror practicing poses or walking in front of friends/family and having them critique your gait. For me I had to really learn to be more aware of my body’s positioning and movement in front of a camera. Confidence goes a loooong way lol.”



“When I started to get paid work, it changed my perspective on things. Placing monetary value on my time made me respect modeling within itself more as well because I began to see it as a possible career after that.”

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: MAJID MUHASSAN
IG: @MAJIDMUHASSAN



When you look in your mirror who is it that you see? I wonder, if you can imagine traveling 730 miles without the guarantee of success? Or waiting for an opportunity amongst 35 - 100+ other candidates whom you may feel less/more qualified than. New York, Milan, and Paris are cities that are well known for being the fashion meccas of the world. In each of these cities, the direction of fashions future is found on every corner. When the season arrives, world renowned designers, celebrities, and high profile figures grace their presence as culture changing designs are debuted down audience surrounded runways. Displaying designs that complement the body of art for which it is made. The subjects being showcased are the designs and the art that enhance each design are called models. Kristin Armani is a model. And her defining beauty has seasoned the interests of photographers, designers and agencies across the country. The passion for the art has carried her throughout her career. She is a product of dedication and perseverance. Kristin Armani, the talented model/

musician/painter who fell in love with modeling after a trip to build her modeling portfolio in NYC delivered a message for every person who has ever been told, "you're in the wrong place."

Say hello to Kristin Armani here is her story.

What's your story? Who are you?

Just an artist trying to be happy. It's cliché, but it's true. Do what you love and love what you do.

When did you find out you loved modeling?

I began to fall in love with modeling after a trip to New York. I took to visit agencies and build my portfolio. Before then, it didn't feel as real, and the rejection I had received from agencies pushed me to become better. I came back to Charlotte with a different mindset than I had before. They're so many people who have the same dreams and aspirations as you so you really have to sit down and figure out what sets you apart from the rest.

Did you have any fears when you

began your career as a model?

Definitely. I didn't think I was pretty enough, tall enough, or thin enough and to be honest I realized there will ALWAYS be someone who fits that criteria more than me, but at the end of the day they aren't me. Modeling continues to teach me how to feel confident and be sure of myself even on days when I am not.

Were you ever insecure about yourself? How did you overcome?

Yes, very. (Laughs) Growing up, I focused a lot on the physical aspect of who I was. As I grew older I realized it is better to be an interesting person than to be someone who looks good. My mother would constantly tell me that my physical attributes are only acquired through genetics, that I had no hand in my appearance at all but it is through my knowledge, actions, and talents that truly make me who I am. So after hearing this I focused more on creating. I would spend my summers and afternoons in the library. I started teaching myself guitar and I'd paint more often. I did the things that made me happy, so now my definition of beauty is different. I look beautiful because I genuinely feel that way

What was it like growing up in North Carolina?

After we moved from NY, I hated living here. It wasn't as fast-paced or large enough for my taste but I've grown to appreciate my upbringing here.

At 18 years' old what was your life like?

At 18 I was just going off to college. I was majoring in business marketing, but I wasn't very hap-

**"DO WHAT YOU
LOVE AND
LOVE WHAT
YOU DO."**

"WHEN I STARTED GETTING PAID WORK, IT CHANGED MY PERSPECTIVE ON THINGS."

py I took a break after my first year and got an apartment with my boyfriend at the time. I didn't model and I didn't paint as much during that time. At 18 I didn't really know what I wanted to do with my life.

What is a typical day like for Kristin Armani?

I used to work in the evenings so I usually wake up begrudgingly, and drink hot tea because I'm not a functioning human until then. The days when I'm off work, I paint throughout the day because I sell artwork and put on local art shows when I'm not modeling, visiting the library or antique/used bookshops around Charlotte. The days when I don't feel like doing either I try to learn new songs on my guitar "just" so I can keep my calluses. (Laughs)

Being a model was it always something you wanted to do?

Not really. I wanted to act and sing when I was younger. I jumped at the opportunity to join every choir/chorus class. I always loved theatre as well. I had always felt antsy and uncomfortable in front of a camera. In middle school I became more involved in the visual arts and by the time high school rolled around I decided I wanted to be an artist, which I still want to do as of now as well.

Your first ever shoot/show, how was the experience?

My very first "photo shoot" was in high school. One of my friends was in charge of our school's talent show and she had asked if I wanted to be involved in the production as a model on the flyer and program for the show. Looking back at them now I laugh because I thought that it wouldn't progress into anything based on how awkward I felt and now I love going to shoots. (Laughs)

"I DIDN'T THINK I WAS PRETTY ENOUGH, TALL ENOUGH, OR THIN ENOUGH, AND TO BE HONEST..."

KRISTIN ARMANI

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: MARTIN STEPHENSON
IG: @MSTEPHENSONPHOTOGRAPHY

KULTURE | 31

"MY VERY FIRST EVER "PHOTO-SHOOT" WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL."

Society will implicate standards on an individual. Insecurities can become the product of those standards. How do you manage to deal with, if any societal standards that may have been introduced by the fashion/modeling industry?

Well the basic standard that most people think of when they hear of models are that they must be thin and tall. Which is true in a sense to many aspects of the industry; however, I do see changes being made and better representation of different body shapes and ethnicities within some of the media. I can only work with what was given to me and continue to be the best version of my own self, because focusing on all the standards that I don't fit into doesn't help me progress in my own personal journey.

What has your journey taught you about yourself?

I've learned to enjoy life for what is and with what I have at any given time. I've learned that I am talented, intelligent, fun and beautiful and I should constantly allow room for growth and improvement to my character through any other experiences that come my way. I haven't figured out exactly what my purpose yet in life but I will enjoy the time before I reach that point.

Did the color of your skin, pose a problem?

I won't say that is hasn't. It has always been a challenge to make a name for yourself in an industry that glorifies lighter skin tone with European features. There is little representation of minorities on the runway and print but I think that will change with time.

Any advice for the aspiring models?

Learn to love yourself and your flaws, because they make you who you are. Being sure of yourself will always keep you grounded just stay persistent and positive.



KRISTIN ARMANI

INSTAGRAM: @KRIS.ARMANI



KULTURE

CLOTHING

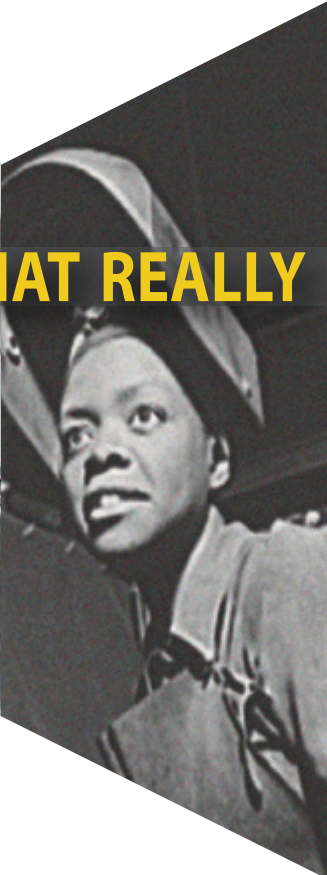
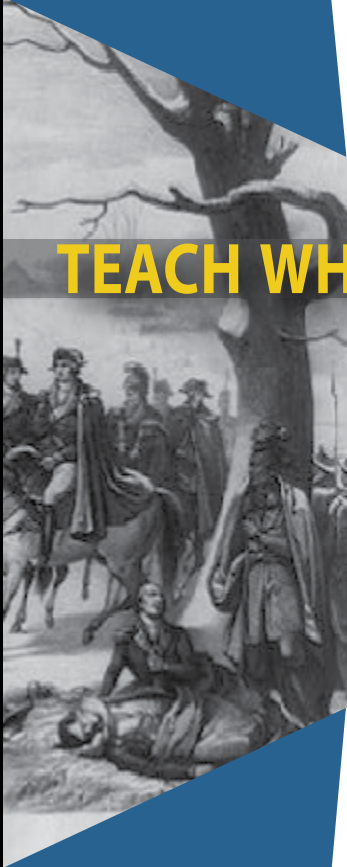
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LET THIS MAGAZINE BE A MESSAGE TO THE BLIND
AND THOSE WHO ARE CLOSE TO THE BLIND LET
THIS MAGAZINE TRAVEL THE WINDS OF FREEDOM BY
THE LAND LET THIS MAGAZINE TRAVEL BY
LAND WATER AIR AND BY THE TRAILWAY
HAVE LISTENED OF YOU. LET THIS MAG
AZINE BE YOUR FRIEND. LET THIS MAGAZINE
YOUR NEAREST NEIGHBOR. YOUR BEST FRIEND
TRY TO FIND IN THE NAME OF YOUR BEST FRIEND
I LOVE YOU ALWAYS I LOVE YOU ALWAYS I LOVE YOU
THE TRAILWAY IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM

BELIEVE



KULTURE

MAG

ISSUE 1

