

Black Dress II: Homage

Curated by
Adrienne
Jones,
Professor,
Fashion
Department
and
Rachelle
Etienne-
Robinson



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#BlackDress

Design: pratt.edu/pcomm

Black Dress
Pratt Exhibitions

Pratt
Manhattan
Gallery

Cover
Model: Coco Mitchell
Photographer: Anthony Artis
Make-up: Imani Rose
Fashion: Adrian Alicea

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1.31–
3.22.2025

Introduction

Black Dress II: Homage celebrates 10 years of the Black Dress Project. The essence of Black Dress actually dates back more than ten years. The concept for the first *Black Dress* exhibition came from my godmother, Clara Branch, affectionately known as “Ma Branch.” Clara Branch was a professor and mainstay at the Fashion Institute of Technology, where I first studied fashion design. Ma Branch not only taught in the Fashion Design department, she founded and supervised the SOUL Book Fund, a program that provided books and supplies for Black students.

Ma Branch created and organized the SOUL Club in 1968, after the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Initially, the purpose of the club was to familiarize the greater F.I.T. community with Black heritage and culture. The impact of the club laid the groundwork for a meeting of the minds, and an understanding of equality. This soon became a never-ending job and inspired Ma Branch to customize her approach and begin teaching others in a different way: by presenting gospel shows, seminars, and a newsletter. But the showstopper of the Soul Club was the annual SOUL Show, a fashion show that featured talented, young Black designers and models. Ma Branch continued producing the SOUL Show,

which contributed to the SOUL Book Fund, for the next 20 years, until her retirement in 1988.

The idea for *Black Dress* came from the many scrapbooks Ma Branch assembled throughout the years of Blacks in fashion. It was in the pages of these books that I realized how little was known about the talents of these individuals. I felt it necessary to further familiarize others with the achievements of Blacks in the fashion industry. In 2014, I conceived and co-curated (with Paula Coleman) the landmark exhibition *Black Dress*, which honored Black designers and addressed the lack of diversity in the fashion industry. After the closing of the exhibition, I realized that there was much more work to do. The exhibition had allowed a visual introduction and discussion of only ten Black designers. But what about all the other creatives were under the umbrella of Blacks in fashion?

2015 saw the expansion of the Black Dress Project. Rachelle Etienne-Robinson, a former student of mine at Pratt Institute, joined me as creative director. Through this partnership we created the Black Dress resource website (www.blackdressexhibit.com), a YouTube channel (featuring interviews with fashion legends), and Black Dress: Salon, a gathering of notable fashion

creatives to discuss fashion and culture. In 2022, with the support from the Jane B. Nord Endowment and Pratt Fashion Department, the Black Dress Project expanded again with Black Dress Talks, a panel discussion series that features a variety of professionals in uninhibited conversations about their careers in the fashion industry.

And now, here we are ten years later, celebrating the Black Dress Project with this next exhibition: *Black Dress II: HOMAGE!* The goal of *Black Dress II* is to build on the momentum of the original *Black Dress* exhibition. The intent of this exhibition is to combine all of the elements of the project into a multi-media, interactive experience that will continue to provoke awareness of the triumphs and accomplishments of Blacks as working professionals in the fashion industry. It is an unprecedented endeavor to coalesce a diverse array of creatives that inform and educate the New York fashion community, as well as new audiences, on the commemorative work of Blacks in the field of fashion. This exhibit not only serves as a response to the underrepresentation of Blacks in the mainstream fashion industry, but it also provides a dynamic display, visually emphasizing and celebrating the works emanating from the Black fashion community of the 21st century. It marks a moment in time where we embark on a new chapter in fashion history, rich with a greater range of creative influences and professional opportunities.

I am very proud to be a protégé of Clara Branch’s original groundwork. The Black Dress Project has now become a never-ending labor of love that continues to grow. With every discovery, a new one emerges, providing the building blocks to becoming a resource for present and future generations to enjoy.

Ma Branch, I hope I have made you proud!

Adrienne Jones

Adrienne Jones



Photo courtesy of Adrienne Jones
This exhibit is dedicated to Clara Branch, Frank E. Etienne, Onnie Jones, Jr., and Walter Greene



Installation view, Jason Mandella Photography

Marking 10 years since the original Black Dress exhibition at Pratt Manhattan Gallery, *Black Dress II: Homage*, curated by Pratt Institute Professor Adrienne Jones and alumna Rachelle Etienne-Robinson, celebrates the transformative influence of Black creatives in the fashion industry. This multimedia exhibition explores the contributions of Black designers, tailors, models, stylists, journalists, and more.

The individuals featured in this exhibition are not an exhaustive list.

*Pratt alum or Pratt affiliate

Black Soil | blak soil | *noun*

Paying homage to the enslaved field workers, the washerwomen, the dressmakers, the tailors, the inventors, and the innovators who toiled so that we could live.

Ann Lowe, fashion designer

Annie Turnbo Malone, entrepreneur and founder of the first African-American cosmetology college

Anthony Overton, creator of Overton's High Brown La Petite Face Powder

Art Smith, jewelry designer

Bernice L'Tanya Griffin, fashion and costume designer

Christina Jenkins, beautician and inventor who obtained patent for hair weave technique

Eliza Ann Gardner, dressmaker and abolitionist

Elizabeth Keckley, dressmaker

Eunice W. Johnson, businesswoman, publisher, and founder of Ebony and Fashion Fair

Gordon Parks, photographer

James Daugherty, fashion designer and illustrator

James Van Der Zee, photographer

John H. Johnson, businessman and publisher of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines

Lois K. Alexander-Lane, fashion designer, educator, author, and historian

Madam C.J. Walker, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and activist

Mae Reeves, milliner

Margaret Mohammit Hagan, dressmaker

Marjorie Stewart Joyner, inventor who obtained patent for permanent hair-wave machine

Mary Beatrice Davidson Kenner, inventor who obtained patent for sanitary belt

Mildred Blount, milliner and designer

Orie Walls Jr., tailor and owner of Orie's Custom Tailoring in Harlem, NY

Rosa Parks, seamstress and activist

S. B. Fuller, Founder and President of Fuller Products Company

Sara Boone, inventor who obtained patent for improvements to the ironing board

Sarah Spencer Washington, founder of Apex News and Hair Company

Thomas L. Jennings, first African American granted patent, invented a dry cleaning process

Willie Otey Kay, dressmaker

Winifred Mason, jewelry designer

BLACK SOIL

Black Soil | blak 'soil | *noun*

Paying homage to the enslaved field workers, the washerwomen, the dressmakers, the tailors, the inventors, and innovators who toiled so that we could live.



Installation view, Jason Mandella Photography



Ann Lowe
Dress, 1966-67
 Brocaded silk taffeta, silk chiffon, synthetic fiber, buckram, elastic and metal fasteners

Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of the Black Fashion Museum founded by Lois K. Alexander-Lane

Image Courtesy of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

Ann Lowe, considered one of the leading American designers of the 20th century, made beautifully embroidered and hand-stitched gowns. Born in Alabama, Lowe eventually settled in New York City where she dressed society ladies through the 1950s and 1960s. She is renowned as the designer of Jackie Kennedy’s wedding gown and bridesmaids dresses.

Bernice L’Tanya Griffin was a gifted artist and designer. She received the first fashion credit ever awarded to a Black designer. L’Tanya moved from New York to Hollywood and was awarded a contract by the Guild Studios, where she designed gowns for the actress Ida Lapino. Her other clients included movie stars Joan Crawford, Dorothy Dandridge, and the wives of many Black bandleaders, such as Marie Ellington (Duke Ellington), Maria Cole (Nat King Cole), and Catherine Basie (Count Basie).

Margaret Mohammitt Hagan, a dressmaker, was born free, but moved to Philadelphia in 1861 for a better quality of life. She began her journey as a businesswoman by first owning a laundry. Upon moving to D.C., she opened a successful dressmaking business so that she could attend school for the study of medical electricity (using electricity to improve one’s health). Margaret became certified in this field and eventually opened three of these “wellness” establishments, which catered to wealthy businessmen.



Black Book | blak 'buk | noun

The writers, editors, journalists, and authors that introduce the styles, trends, and the inside stories of the fashion industry.

André Leon Talley
Alfred Fornay
Angela Burt-Murray
Asia Millia Ware
Bevy Smith
Brandice Daniel
Caroline Wanga
Chioma Nnadi
Claire Sulmers
Constance White
Diedre Dyer
Edward Enninful
Ericka Goodman
Eunice Johnson
Edward Lewis
Emil Wilberkin
Elaine Welteroth
Glenn Tunstull
Harriette Cole
Ib Kamara
J. Alexander (Miss J)
Jelani Bandele
Julee Wilson
Jessica Cruel
John H. Johnson

Kenya Hunt
Keija Minor
Lindsey Peoples
Lacy Lennon
Lloyd Boston
Len Burnett Jr.
Lois K. Alexander-Lane
Mark Anthony Green
Myrdith Leon-McCormack
Monica L. Miller
Mikki Taylor
Michaela Angela Davis
Marielle Bobo
Nikki Ogunnaike
Rajni Jacques
Robin Givhan
Rosemary Reed Miller
Samira Nasr
Shiona Turini
Susan Taylor
Tamu McPherson
Teri Agins
Tonya Blazio-Licorish
Walter Greene

Installation view, Jason Mandella Photography





Installation view, Jason Mandella Photography

Award winning journalist **Lindsay Peoples** began her fashion journey as an intern at *Teen Vogue*. Her vivid passion and knowledge for fashion took her from intern to becoming the youngest editor in chief of any Conde Nast magazine. In 2018, Peoples interviewed over 100 Black creatives in the fashion industry.

The result was a series of painstaking testimonies speaking to the racial divide in the industry. She penned the article “What it’s Really Like to Be Black and Work in Fashion.” Peoples is also the co-founder of The Blacks in Fashion Council, which represents people of color in the fashion industry. And currently, as the editor in chief of the *Cut* magazine, Lindsay Peoples is making the much-needed changes to this industry. She sees the future of the fashion industry as one of inclusion, diversity, and a broad range of beauty. Peoples has secured her legacy as a visionary in the fashion industry. Among her many awards, Lindsay was awarded the 2022 Pratt Fashion Visionary Award.

Teri Agins is an award-winning journalist, lecturer, consultant, and former senior special writer and “Ask Teri” columnist at the *Wall Street Journal* where she developed the paper’s fashion industry beat which she covered for 30 years. She is the author of *Hijacking the Runway*, *How Celebrities are Stealing the Spotlight From Fashion Designers* (2014 Avery/ Penguin Random House) and *The End of Fashion: How Marketing Changed the Clothing Business Forever* (1999 William Morrow/HarperCollins). Teri has written for the *New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Essence*, *O Magazine*, *Town & Country*, *Allure*, *Elle*, *Fortune* and *Harper’s Bazaar*, and appeared on “Oprah,” “Project Runway,” “The View,” “Full Frontal Fashion,” “The Today Show,” CNN, CNBC, and National Public Radio. Teri appeared in documentary films: *Victoria’s Secret: Angels and Demons* (Hulu, 2022) and *The United States of Elie Tahari* (Vimeo on Demand, 2021).

Photo credit: Anthony Artis



Black Dress | blak 'dres | *noun*

The initial *Black Dress* exhibition was held in 2014. The exhibition commemorated and celebrated the contributions of ten contemporary fashion designers. *Black Dress* served to provide a dynamic display, visibly emphasizing and celebrating the works emanating from the Black fashion community of the 21st century. The included designers utilize their individual visions as a nucleus for their creations.

Installation view of garments by Michael Jerome Francis in *Black Dress: Ten Contemporary Fashion Designers* at Pratt Manhattan Gallery, February 7 – April 26, 2014.

Photograph courtesy of Adrienne Jones.



Black List | blak list | noun
The beginning, the middle, and the who's who of Black fashion designers. These are just some of the many clothing and accessory designers that have made an impact on the fashion industry.

- April Walker
- Byron Lars*
- Dede Ayite
- Douglas Says
- Epperson
- Fabrice
- Jeffrey Banks*
- Nardos Imam
- Patrick Kelly
- Paul Tazewell*
- Sammy B*
- Sheila Gray
- Stephen Burrows
- Telfar
- Yemi Osunkoya (Kosibah)
- Zinda Williams

Installation view, Jason Mandella Photography





Installation view, Jason Mandella Photography



Sammy B
Samantha Black Finale
"Racing Down Lovers Lane
Collection," 2023
Courtesy of Sammy B



IN EARNEST by Byron Lars /
Designer: Byron Lars
Victorian Varsity Jacket, 2023
Sequined Tile Skirt, 2024
Courtesy of Byron Lars

Samantha Black's aesthetic is pure and simple: to create limelight-worthy pieces with a couture trade hand. She's just as passionate about great design as she is for her client base, be it the average Jane searching for a red carpet stunner or a mega musician like Beyoncé. Other clients include Demi Lovato, Nicki Minaj, Megan Thee Stallion, and Halle Berry.

A graduate of Pratt Institute, Samantha has been featured on *Project Runway* (2012) and *Project Runway All-Stars* (2015). She interned with brands such as Jill Stuart, Michael Kors, and Alexander McQueen, before launching her own line, Sammy B.

Byron Lars is known for his striking ability to mix textures and patterns. He started his own label in 1991, and was named "Rookie of the Year" by *Women's Wear Daily*. Soon after, his designs were bought by prestigious retailers such as Bergdorf Goodman, Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus, and Bloomingdale's. His success also led him to an invitation by Mattel to design limited edition Barbie dolls. In 1991, he began designing under his own label, Byron Lars Beauty Mark. Then, in 2020, Lars formed a partnership with his longtime colleague, Sheila Gray. Together, they took a huge leap of faith, changed management, and changed the name of his company to InEarnest, named after his dear departed father, where they continue to create looks that celebrate a woman's figure.

Lars also has quite a history with Pratt Institute. In conjunction with the 2014 *Black Dress* exhibition, he was honored with the Fashion Visionary Award at the annual Pratt Fashion Show. In 2019, he was the featured designer in the talk and fashion show *Black Dress: Salon* at the Pratt House. In 2022, Byron received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree at Pratt's commencement ceremony. In the Fall of 2023, Byron began teaching in Pratt's Fashion Design department, after being named the Jane B. Nord Professor of Fashion Design. His light continues to shine through!



Black Beauty | blak byü-tē | *noun*

The hair and makeup artists and beauty entrepreneurs who made their marks creating the stunning illusions that turn beautiful into gorgeous.

Alfred Fornay
Angela Hubbard (Angie Watts)
Anita Pattie Brown
Annie Turnbo Malone
Anthony Claxton (KrewKutz)
Anthony Overton
Barbara Walden
Beverly Johnson
Camille Friend
Carmen Murphy
Christina Jenkins
Chuck Amos
Cynde Watson
D'angelo Thompson*
Damone Roberts
Derrick Scurry
Desiree Rogers
Desmond Murray
Dr. Eunice M. Dudley &
Dr. Joe L. Dudley, Sr.
Dr. Nathaniel H. Bronner Sr.
Elena George
Eunice Johnson
Fran Freeman
George Johnson
Gina Woods and Tabitha Brown
Iman
Jamyla & Pierre Bennu
Joey Mills
John Atchison
Johnny Wright
Karen Dupiche
Kevin Jackson
Kim Kimble
Lisa Price

Lola Okanlawon
Lulu Pierre
Madam C.J. Walker
Mamie McDonald
Merrell Hollis
Monique & Melvin Rodriguez
Nancy V. Brown
Naomi Sims
Nat “The Bush Dr.” Mathis
Nikiya Mathis
Pat McGrath
Pekela Clark Riley
Reggie Wells
Richelieu Dennis
Romero Jennings
Rose Morgan
Roxanna Floyd
S.B. Fuller
Sam Fine
Sarah Spencer Washington
Shontay Lundy
Stacey “Kutz” Morris
Tamika Gibson
Ted Gibson
Theo A. Faulkner
Titi & Miko Branch
Tristan Walker
Ty-Ron Mayes
Ursula Dudley Oglesby
Ursula Stephen
Valente Frazier
Vivica A. Fox Hair Collection
Wendi Levy and Kim Eheridge
Yancey Edwards
Yene Damtew

The curators of Black Dress II would like to thank Leonard Davis for sharing items from his massive collection of Black memorabilia.

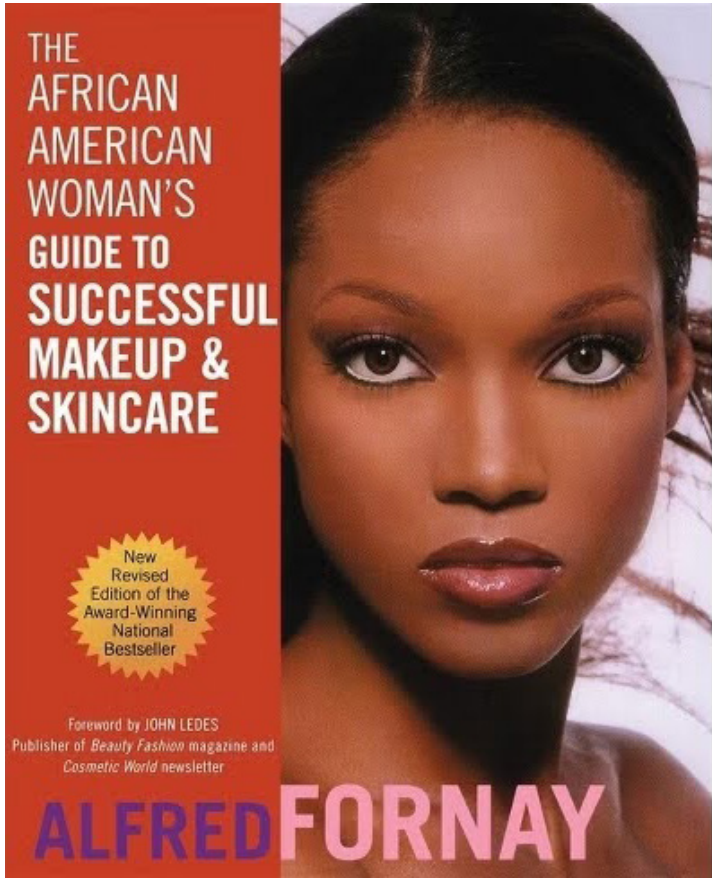


Installation view, Jason Mandella Photography



[Top]
Make-up and styling by
D'angelo Thompson

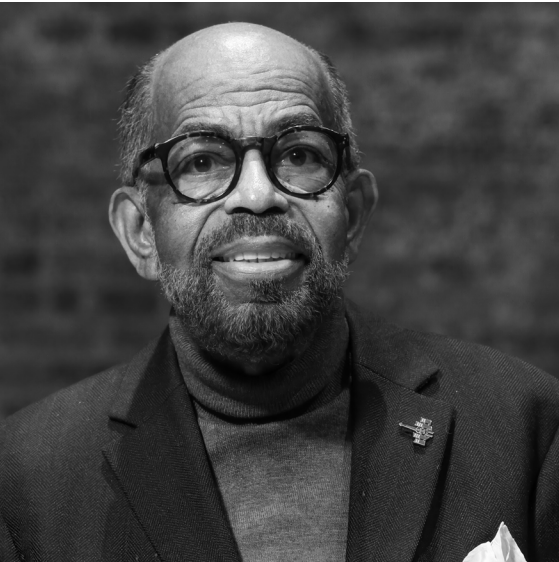
[Bottom] Book cover,
Alfred Fornay



D'angelo Thompson is a Pratt alum who has worked in the beauty industry for over two decades. Thompson is a makeup artist, author, podcast host, and educator. His work can be seen in commercials, fashion, film, lifestyle, and television. He has been nominated for three Daytime Emmy Awards for hair and makeup. As an author, Thompson penned and published *Enhanced Beauty*, *Enhanced Beauty for Teens*, *Enhanced Beauty: Men's Grooming*, *A 100 Days of Gratitude*, and a children's book, *Gratitude Is a Journey*. As a community activist, Thompson organizes yearly fundraisers to support AIDS research, education, and advocacy with The Latino Commission on AIDS, youth initiatives, domestic violence, sex trafficking awareness, social justice, and LGBTQ rights and safety. Thompson is currently an adjunct professor at Kent State University.

Alfred Fornay is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology, and ranks as a legend in the beauty industry. He is a beauty editor, consultant, creative director, and author. Fornay has represented Revlon and Clairol cosmetics, served as beauty editor for *Ebony*, *Elan*, and was first editor in chief for *Ebony Man*. He is the author of three books on beauty: *Fornay's Guide to Skin Care and Makeup for Women of Color*, *The African American Woman's Guide to Successful Make-Up and Skin Care*, and *Born Beautiful: The African American Teenager's Complete Beauty Guide*.

Photo credit: Anthony Artis



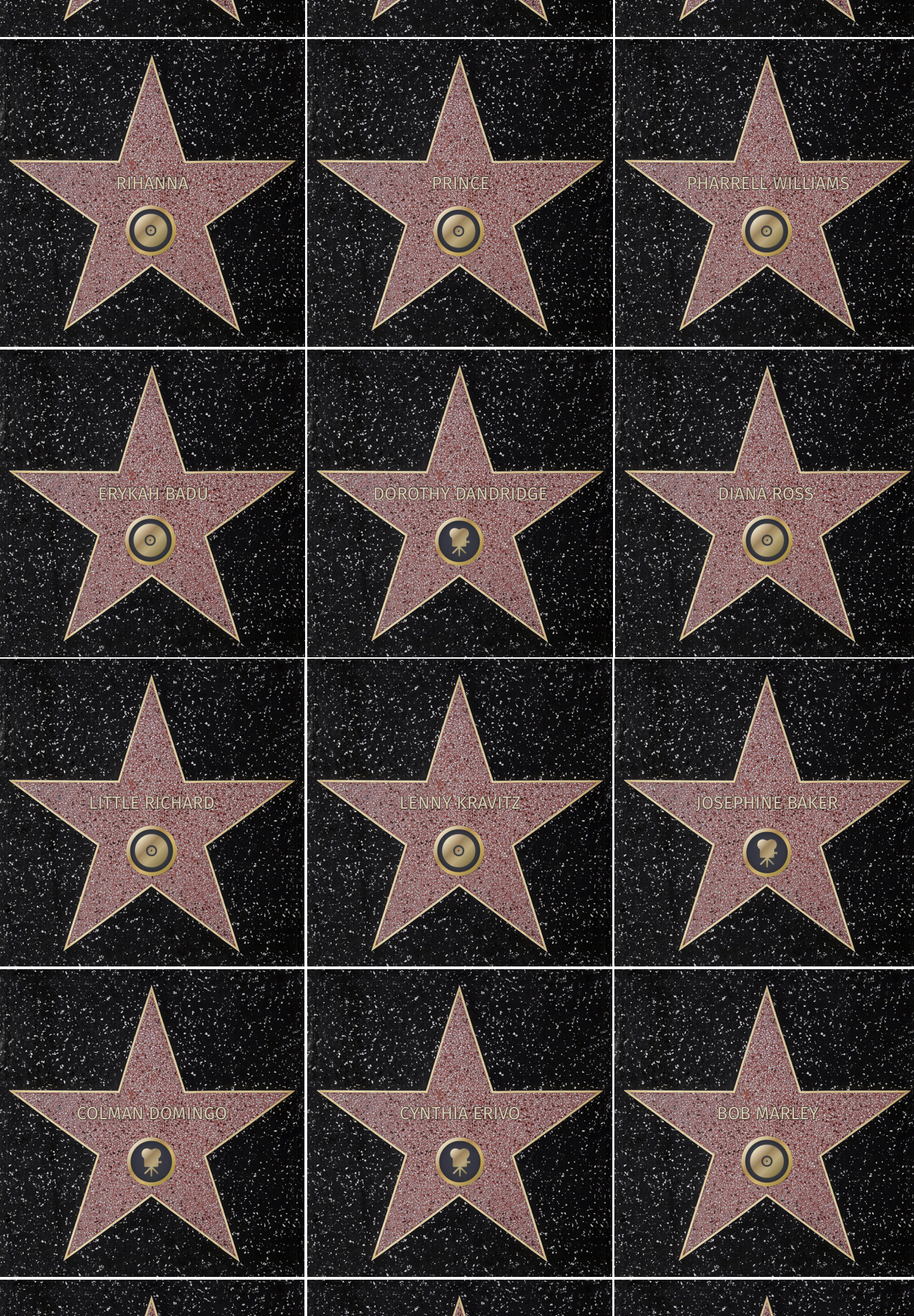
Black Star | blak 'stär | *noun*

Dedicated to those individuals who were not afraid to take risks with their style and who continue to influence and inspire.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Aaliyah | Harry Belafonte | Pam Grier |
| Anderson .Paak | James Brown | Pharrell Williams |
| André 3000 | Janelle Monae | Prince |
| Angela Davis | Janet Jackson | Queen Latifah |
| Beyoncé | Jay-Z | Richard Roundtree |
| Bianca Belair | Jodie Turner | Rihanna |
| Big Daddy Kane | John W. Bubbles | Run-DMC |
| Biggie Smalls | Josephine Baker | RuPaul |
| Billie Holiday | Kanye West | Sade |
| Billy Dee Williams | Kerry Washington | Salt-N-Pepa |
| Billy Porter | Kool Moe Dee | Sammy Davis Jr. |
| Bob Marley | Lauryn Hill | Serena Williams |
| Bootsy Collins | LeBron James | Sha'Carri Richardson |
| Cab Calloway | Lena Horne | Sheryl Lee Ralph |
| Cardi B. | Lenny Kravitz | Slick Rick |
| Chadwick Boseman | Lil' Kim | Solange |
| Chlöe Bailey | Little Richard | Spike Lee |
| Cicely Tyson | Lizzo | Steve Harvey |
| Colman Domingo | LL Cool J | Teyana Taylor |
| Cynthia Erivo | Lola Falana | The Temptations |
| Diahann Carroll | Lupita Nyong'o | Tina Turner |
| Diana Ross | Marvin Gaye | TLC |
| Donna Summer | MC Hammer | Tobe Nwigwe |
| Dorothy Dandridge | Michael B. Jordan | Tracee Ellis Ross |
| Dwyane Wade | Michael Jackson | Tyler, the Creator |
| Eartha Kitt | Michael Jordan | Usher |
| Eddie Murphy | Michelle Obama | Venus Williams |
| Erykah Badu | Missy Elliott | Whoopi Goldberg |
| Flava Flav | Mr. T | Wu-Tang Clan |
| Florence Griffith Joyner | Nat King Cole | Yara Shahidi |
| Gabrielle Union | Nicki Minaj | Zendaya |
| George Clinton | Nina Simone | |
| Grace Jones | NWA | |

Installation view, Jason Mandella Photography





Josephine Baker was an American born dancer, singer, and actress. As a vaudeville performer, her career took her around the world, but she made her home in France. She was one of the most celebrated performers in Paris, and caused quite a sensation in the city for her sense of style and talent. Baker was the first Black woman to star in a major motion picture, the 1927 French silent film *Siren of the Tropics*. She was celebrated by artists and intellectuals of the era, who referred to her as the “Black Venus.”

Colman Domingo is an acclaimed stage, screen, and film actor, as well as a playwright and director. He has received a Primetime Emmy Award and has been nominated for both an Academy Award and Tony awards. Notable film appearances include roles in *Lincoln* (2012), *Selma* (2014), *If Beale Street Could Talk* (2018), *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom* (2020), *The Color Purple* (2023), *Rustin* (2023) and *Sing Sing* (2024). Domingo, known for his stylish looks on and off screen, is by far one of the best dressed to walk the red carpet.



A reimagined Walk of Fame for *Black Dress II: Homage*, this floor graphic honors Black artists—some already with Hollywood stars, others without—celebrating their lasting impact on culture and style.

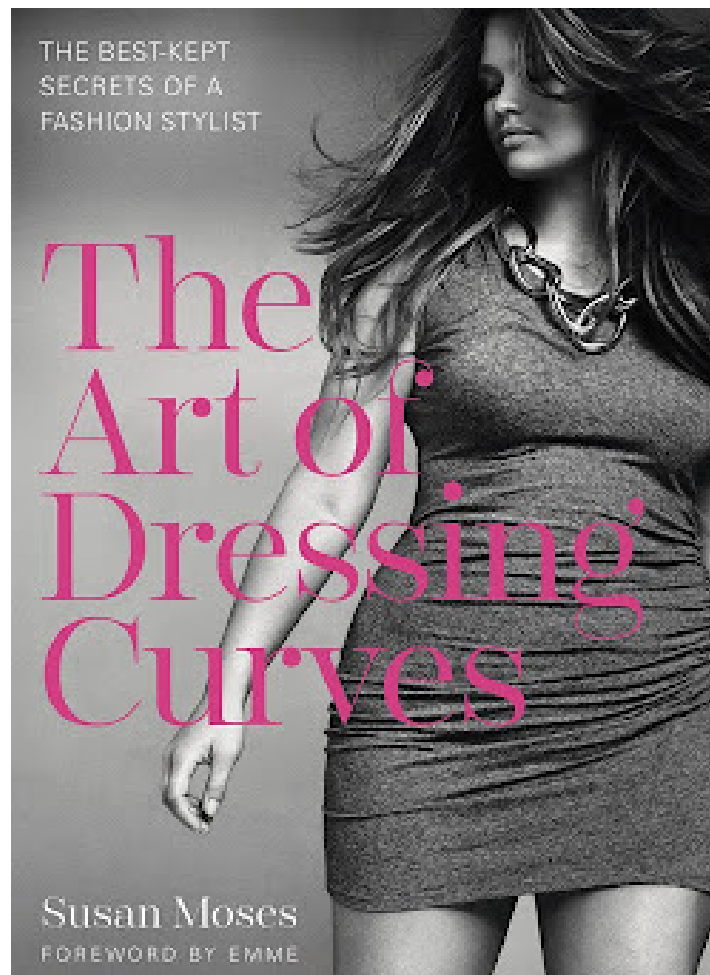


Black Tie | blak 'tī | noun
The fashion stylists who create the most fashionable looks for the celebrities we look at the most.

- Adella Farmer
- Amandi Brooks
- Alexander Allen
- Atiba Newsome
- Beagy Zielinski
- Becca Alexis
- Carlton Spence
- Diandre Tristan
- Eric Archibald
- Freddie Lieba
- Harrison Thomas
- Jason Bolden
- Jason Rembert
- Jason Sky
- June Ambrose
- Law Roach
- Lysa Cooper
- Misa Hylton-Brim
- Ola Oliver Hudson
- Olori Swank
- Patti Wilson
- Rachel Johnson
- Susan Moses
- Ty Hunter
- Ty-Ron Mayes
- Ugo Hasbourne
- Wayman and Micah
- Zerina Akers

Installation view, Jason Mandella Photography





Book cover,
Susan Moses

Whether classic or contemporary, masculine or feminine, Brooklyn-based stylist **Tiffani Williams** has the unique ability to combine different looks to create art through fashion.

A creative and visual free spirit, Williams has always had a flair and interest for style from a young age. The New York native, with a stylish socialite for a grandmother, grew up witnessing the matriarch of her family express herself through fashion. Williams received her first experience in the fashion world as the first assistant to the fashion editor of *Women's Wear Daily* (Atlanta & Chicago), the authority for breaking news and business coverage of the fashion industry.

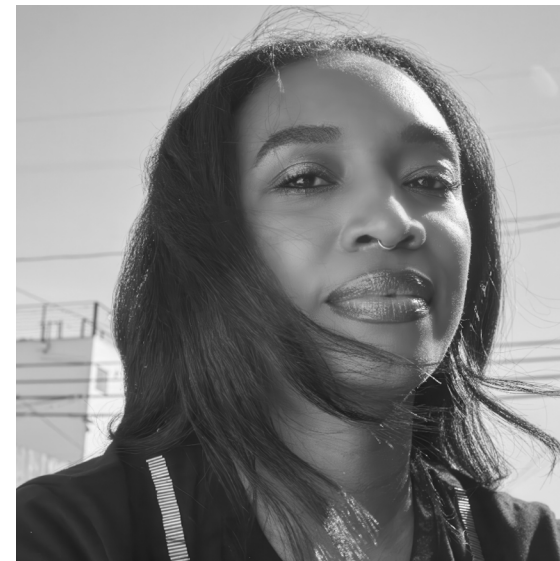
As her career prospered as a stylist, Williams' looks were seen on celebrities such as Howard Stern, Taraji P. Henson, Cam Newton, Derek Luke, Babyface, Jamie Hector, Ato Essandoh, and others. Her client roster also includes various brands and companies including Amazon, Hugo Boss, Lord & Taylor, Macy's, and Brooklyn Circus. Williams' work has also been featured in publications such as *Harper's Bazaar* (Bulgaria), *GQ* (Asia), *Lady Gunn*, *Traffic*, *Fantastics*, *Monrowe*, *Creem*, and *Schon*.

Susan Moses is the doyenne of plus fashion, steeped in the cultures of retail, editorial, advertising, film, television, and music. Her expertise expresses a complete understanding that fashion is not just about loving clothes, but about knowing how to wear them. During an illustrious career, Moses's styling legacy includes working with pop music and R&B darlings, country music royalty, and Hollywood icons and newcomers. Her biography includes serving as Creative Director of the Queen Latifah-inspired Curvations line, receiving the award of Fashion Stylist of the Year Award during Full Figure Fashion Week, acting as Style Ambassador for legacy brand Lane Bryant and Pennington's (the premier Canadian retailer), co-hosting HSN's uber-popular *The List with Colleen Lopez*, and numerous guest fashion editor positions.

Her book, *The Art of Dressing Curves: The Best Kept Secrets of a Fashion Stylist* (HarperCollins), is filled with high fashion images and prescriptive information covering everything from body type and style personality identity to shapewear know-how and building an essential wardrobe. It has been called the Bible for plus fashion.



Photography by Stanley
Desbas | Styling by Susan
Moses | Hair by Danielle
Wright | Make-up by Janina
Lee | Model, Anita Marshall



Black Face | blak ‘fās | noun

The faces that redefined beauty, that put strut and swag on the runway, and appear on the covers and pages of prominent fashion magazines.

Alek Wek
Alvin Clayton
Audrey Smaltz
B. Smith
Bethann Hardison
Beverly Johnson
Beverly Peele
Billie Blair
Boris Kodjoe
Chanel Iman
Charlene Dash
Chetan Cutting
Coco Mitchell
Djimon Hounsou
Donyale Luna
Dorothea Towles Church
Gail O’Neill
Grace Jones
Helen Williams
Iman
Jasmine Tookes
Jennifer Hosten
Jourdan Dunn
Judy Pace
Kiara Kabukuru
Kimora Lee Simmons
Leomie Anderson

Lisa Butler
Liya Kebede
Louise Vyent
Maria Borges
Mounia
Naomi Campbell
Naomi Sims
Noemie Lenior
Nyadak “Duckie” Thot
Nykhor Paul
Pat Cleveland
Peggy Dillard*
Ramona Saunders
Renauld White
Roshumba Williams
Sara Lou Harris
Shari Belafonte
Shemar Moore
Terri Springer
Tomiko Fraser
Tracey Africa Norman
Tyra Banks
Tyson Beckford
Veronica Webb
Waris Dirie
Winnie Harlow

Installation view, Jason Mandella Photography





Black Face | blak 'fäs | noun

The faces that redefined beauty, that put strut and swag on the runway, and appear on the covers and pages of prominent fashion magazines.



Coco Mitchell originally thought her career path would be in teaching. After a year of teaching and meeting the likes of Eileen Ford and Wilhelmina, Mitchell was convinced she had what it takes to be a model. Coco joined Wilhelmina Models and went on to work for such magazines as *Mademoiselle* and *Glamour*. Her breakout occurred when she appeared alongside supermodel Iman for the first ever, groundbreaking women of color campaign, Revlon's "Polished Ambers," shot by the one and only Francesco Scavullo. Mitchell later moved to Los Angeles where she joined the Nina Blanchard Agency. The European market began calling, and for ten years Mitchell used Milan as her home base, while she traveled all over the world modeling. After a successful stint in Europe, Mitchell felt it was time to return to New York City, where she joined the prestigious agency Ford Models. Shortly thereafter, she booked the famous *Sports Illustrated* Swimwear issue, becoming one of their first African American models. Mitchell's creativity and professionalism can only be measured by the number of years that she has in the business and how she is known and admired by many. She is respected in the fashion community as one of its most professional and knowledgeable individuals. Mitchell is now being sought after by emerging designers and photographers to consult and collaborate with them to ensure successful runway shows and photo shoots. Her other duties include casting and training new models as well as helping existing models step up their game.

Photo credit: Anthony Artis



As a professional model, Alvin Clayton was represented by the Wilhelmina and Ford modeling agencies and gained the title of Super Model, while gracing the pages of *GQ*, *Vogue*, *Ebony Man*, *Ebony*, *Essence*, and countless international publications. He has also appeared in countless national television commercials, and catalogs. He has walked the runways for famous designer brands, such as Yves Saint Laurent, Dior, Issey Miyake, Donna Karan, and countless others.

Clayton is the owner and operator of the award-winning Alvin and Friends Restaurant in New Rochelle, NY, as well as being an award-winning visual artist. He continues to be productive as a professional model and most importantly as an artist whose work reflects the day to day lives of our community.

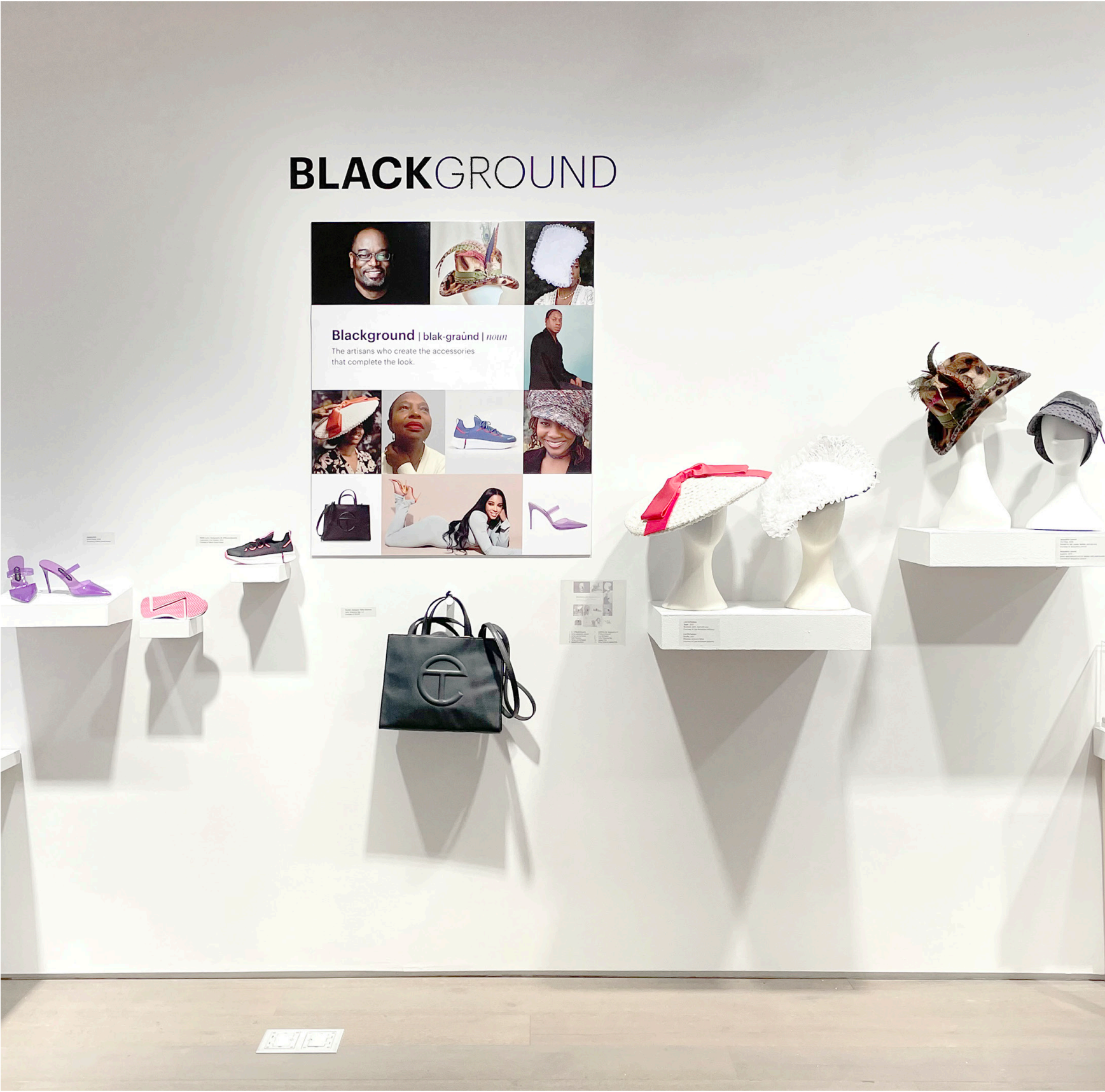


Blackground | blak-graund | noun

The artisans who create the accessories that complete the look.

D'Wayne Edwards (ÜNOS by Sz)
Jacqueline Lamont*
Jessica Rich
Lisa McFadden
Telfar Clemens

Installation view, Jason Mandella Photography





Jacqueline Lamont, who was born in Manchester, England and raised in New York by Jamaican parents, says her background is what helps to give her designs such a broad base appeal. She studied architecture and interior design at Pratt Institute and graduated with a degree in Fashion Design from the Fashion Institute of Technology. Working in the garment industry is where she gained firsthand knowledge of how fabric was used to put designer collections together. It was this love of design, fabric, and texture that inspired Lamont to open her own design company. Lamont studied millinery under Janine Galiamard, an old school French milliner who had made hats for Cristobal Balenciaga. Galiamard taught her all the rules of making a great hat and urged her to start her own millinery collection, complete with its own namesake, Lamont Tartan.

Lisa McFadden studied millinery while earning a BFA in Fashion Design from American Intercontinental University in Atlanta, Georgia and graduated with top craftsmanship honors. After years of freelancing in New York City's fashion industry as an illustrator, fashion designer, and technical designer with companies like Ann Taylor, J. Crew, and Gap Inc., McFadden decided to revisit hatmaking in 2003 with a capsule collection of hats she blocked in her small Brooklyn studio. Soon after, she would create her first CRUSH Cap.

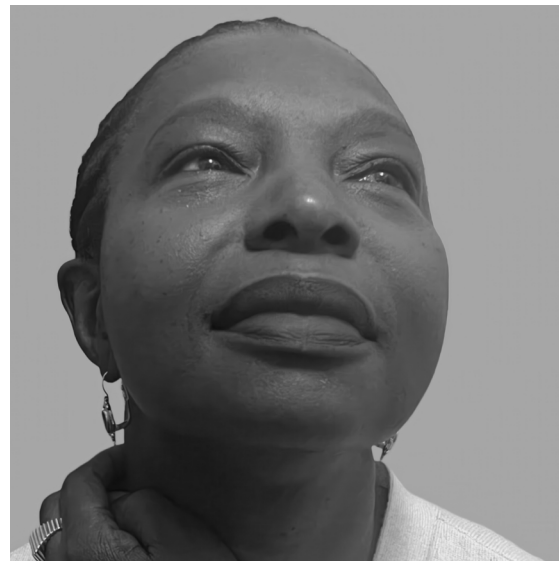
McFadden continued to work in the industry until launching her brand, LISA MCFADDEN MILLINERY, in 2014. She has collaborated with designers Stephen Burrows, Byron Lars, and Sheila Gray, as well as textile designers Savel, Inc., Tania Vartan, and Scott Bodenner. MCFADDEN looks forward to expanding the brand with passion projects like her fashion film short, *Journey-Cuba*, which screened at Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival, and more bespoke capsule collaborations.



[Top] Lisa McFadden
Soufflé, 2021
Sinamay, wire and fabric
Courtesy of Lisa McFadden
Millinery

[Left] Jacqueline Lamont
Out West, 2024
Printed fur felt, suede, leather,
and silk trim
Courtesy of Jacqueline
Lamont

[Right] Jacqueline Lamont
Suzanne, 2014
Italian wool jaquard and kid
leather with steel buckle
Courtesy of Jacqueline
Lamont



Black Gold | blak 'göld | noun
The artisans who take gemstones and precious metals and turn them into wearable pieces of art.

- Adore Adorn Jewelry
- Angely Martinez
- Castro NYC
- Dominique Renée
- EDAS
- Jacqueline Rabun
- Khiry
- Lauren Newton Jewelry
- Lorraine West Jewelry
- Lingua Nigra
- Marei*
- Omi Woods
- Soko
- V. Bellan
- We Dream in Colour
- Yam

Installation view, Jason Mandella Photography





Jacqueline Rabun
Metanoia' collection
The Ring, 2021
18K Yellow Gold and
Rutilated Quartz Crystal
Designed in collaboration
with Carpenters Workshop
Gallery

Courtesy of Jacqueline Rabun
and Carpenters Workshop
Gallery



Castro NYC / Designer:
Terry Castro
Skull Cuff, 2009
Sterling silver
Courtesy of Castro, NYC

Internationally renowned American jeweller **Jacqueline Rabun's** unique approach to design has distinguished her creations worldwide. Rabun's fluid conceptual forms and her poetic approach to design, through which she seeks to reflect the human experience, have become her signature.

Jacqueline Rabun launched her debut jewellery collection "Raw Elegance" in 1990, upon her arrival in London. It consists of a series of hand-sculpted organic forms exploring the purity and innate elegance of precious materials, gaining her instant acclaim and recognition amongst collectors of contemporary art and design.

Terry Castro was an extraordinary jewellery designer whose creations transcend the boundaries of conventional artistry. With an innate passion for crafting exquisite pieces that captivate hearts and minds, Castro has etched his name as a visionary artist in the world of jewelry. Through his unparalleled talent and dedication, he has redefined the very essence of wearable art, leaving an indelible mark on the industry.

Castro died suddenly at the age 50, in 2022. Currently, his son, Sir King Castro, leads Castro NYC.

Photo credit: Jenna Schoenefeld



Photo credit: Simon Groneberg



Adore Adorn / Designer:
Sasha Flynn
*Missy Ring with Turquoise,
Chalcedony, Moonstone, and
Amethyst*, 2024
925 Sterling silver with pre-
cious stones
Courtesy of Sasha Flynn /
Adore Adorn



Omi Woods / Designer:
Ashley Alexis McFarlane
*The Woven Cowrie Cuff
Bracelet II*, 2024
Sterling silver with 18K gold
Courtesy of Omi Woods

[Right] Angely Martinez
The Vinyl Flower Earring, 2017
Courtesy of Angely Martinez



In Memoriam

Black Dress remembers those who passed between 2014–2024.

Allene Singho Roberts
Model
1943–2014

Amsale
Fashion Designer
1954–2018

André Leon Talley
Fashion Journalist, Stylist, Creative Director, Author, and Editor-at-Large of Vogue
1948–2022

Aretha Franklin
Singer, Songwriter, and Pianist
1942–2018

Arthur McGee
Fashion Designer
1933–2019

B. Smith
Model and Entrepreneur
1949–2020

Chadwick Boseman
Actor
1976–2020

Cheslie Kryst
Model, Beauty Pageant
Titleholder and TV Correspondent
1991–2022

Chris-Tia Donaldson
Beauty Executive
1979–2021

Christopher Hunte
Fashion Designer and Pratt Professor*
1953–2016

Cicely Tyson
Model and Actress
1925–2021

Clara Branch
Professor, Mentor and
Creator of Soul Club at FIT
1929–2016

Derrick Scurry
Hair Stylist
1964–2016

Dori Wilson
Model
1944–2021

Dorothy “Terri” Springer
Model
1928–2021

Dr. Joe L. Dudley Sr.
Co-Founder of Dudley Beauty Corp
1937–2024

Ernest Collins
Makeup Artist, Hair Stylist, and Photographer
1953–2020

Frankie Beverly
Singer and Songwriter
1946–2024

Gail O’Neill
Model
1962–2023

Geoffrey Holder
Actor, Director, and Costume Designer
1930–2014

Harry Belafonte
Actor, Singer, and Activist
1927–2023

Helen Williams
Model
1935–2023

Joey Mills
Makeup Artist
1941–2021

LaTisha Chong
Celebrity Hairstylist
1990–2022

Leslie Outerbridge
Model and Photographer
1936–2020

Mae Reeves
Milliner
1912–2016

Maleesa Mooney
Model
1992–2023

MYchael Anthony Knight Jr.
Fashion Designer
1978–2017

Nichole “Nikki” Coats
Model
1991–2023

Ophelia DeVore
Model, Businesswoman, and Publisher
1922–2014

Quincy Jones
Music Composer and Producer
1922–2024

Reggie Wells
Celebrity Makeup Artist
1947–2024

Reginald Thomas
Designer
1957–2019

Renauld White
Model and Actor
1944–2024

Richard Roundtree
Model and Actor
1942–2023

Romay Catherine Davis
WWII Veteran, Member of the
6888th Battalion and Fashion Designer
1920–2024

Rosemary Reed Miller
Designer, Entrepreneur
1939–2017

Terry Castro
Jewelry Designer
1972–2022

Tina Turner
Singer, Songwriter, and Actress
1939–2023

Titi Branch
Co-Founder of Miss Jessie’s
1969–2014

Virgil Abloh
Fashion Designer
1980–2021

Walter Greene
Fashion Journalist and Consultant
1950–2024

Waraire Boswell
Fashion Designer
1975–2024

Acknowledgments

It has been my sincere pleasure to be involved in the Black Dress project since its inception at Pratt Manhattan Gallery in 2014. I commend Professor Adrienne Jones and Rachelle Etienne-Robinson for their extraordinary efforts and vision in expanding the initial exhibition into a multifaceted program, enriched by insightful talks documenting the achievements and history of Black professionals in the fashion industry. I deeply appreciate their dedication and the passion they have brought to *Black Dress II: Homage*.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the designers and generous lenders who graciously made their work available for this exhibition.

The successful realization of this project would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment of the Department of Exhibitions staff: Ted Holland, Assistant Director; Shoshi Rosen, Gallery Coordinator; Travis Molkenbur, Head Preparator; and Peter Schenck and Scott Whipkey, Installation Technicians, along with our dedicated student assistants.

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Sincerely,

Nick Battis
Director of Exhibitions

This exhibition would not have been possible without the creativity, commitment and enthusiasm of the most amazing Department of Exhibitions team; thank you for seeing our vision and making a dream a reality. We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to the designers and generous lenders who graciously made work available. It is with our sincere appreciation that we thank the following contributors that made this exhibition possible.

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Blumlein Associates, Inc. (BAI Design)

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Mara Leonardi, Graphic Designer

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