

# fair.folks

## H. Badaruddin

In 2020, the London photographer went viral with his photo series Younglawa

## Do it yourself

Grab some flowers and turn your garden into a dyeing paradise

## Enzi Footwear

Addis Ababa: Get to know the premium brand for handmade sneakers





Tays Köper-Kelemen © Jacek Wesolowski



Domitila Barros



Nina Elyas © Jacek Wesolowski

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Jacek M. Wesolowski

## Hello fair folks!

Here we are at last. Our first fair fashion magazine, we present with heart and soul, passion and, above all, a shared vision and mission.

The clothing industry not only has a strong impact on the environment, but also fails in many places in terms of social and fair treatment of people. Even if we value fashion as a form of expression and cultural asset, we often cannot and do not want to identify with the industry's wrongdoings. The message of clothing and fashion itself has lost its value in the hunt for must-haves and styles that change every day. Fashion has become a meaningless consumer good.

Judging, and identifying the wrongs is the easy way out; the real challenge lies in finding a definition of what is right. Thus, sustainability and activism should not be understood as a trend, as an inspiration, or as a basis for a nice design. Today a collection about diversity, tomorrow one about sustainability and the day after tomorrow something with streetwear – because that's what is in demand right now? In the long run, it's easy to see that this is unlikely to go well.

We are telling a different story. **fair.folks** will continue to hang on to the topics of diversity, fairness and humanity.

**Our first issue devotes itself to the value of DIVERSITY. Enjoy reading!**

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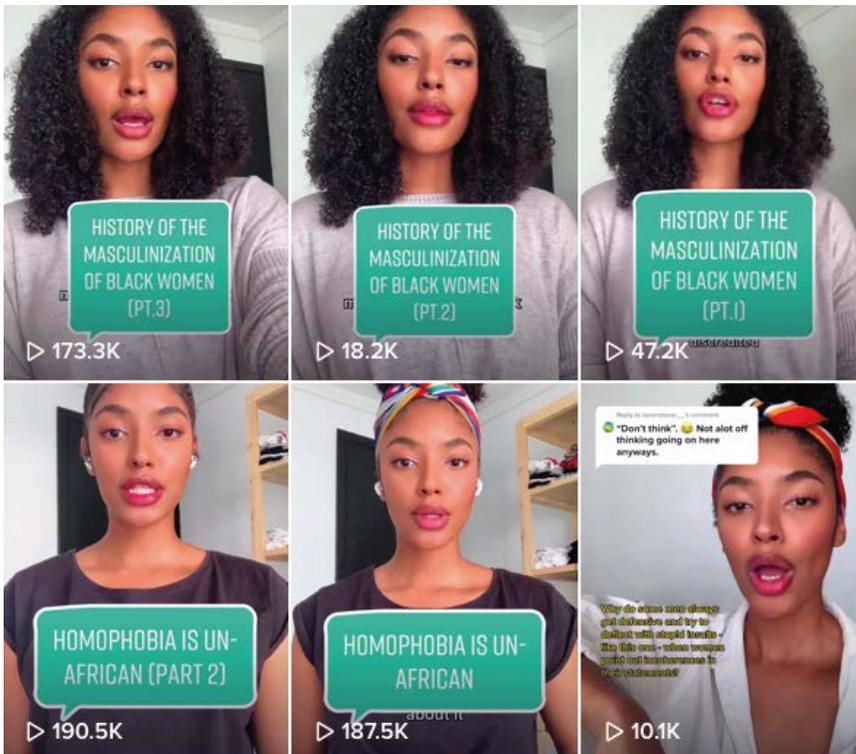
© Blackfaces Clothing

# What's going on with?

# DIVERSITY

## most popular hashtags

- #diversitymatters
- #differentisbeautiful
- #beyoutiful
- #wearefamily
- #peopleoftheworld
- #diversity
- #diversityandinclusion



© Screenshot: Tanaïssa/TikTok

**tanita.dee**  
Tanaïssa  
Folgen

50 Folge ich 82.5K Follower 2.2M Likes  
insta: @tanita.dee  
She/her

### Skin bleaching needs to stop

A TikTok account that you should definitely take a look at if you are interested in the topic of diversity:

@tanita.dee

Her short videos on topics like 'Let me tell you about the first time I was called a monkey', 'Skin bleaching needs to stop' and 'Where does Cameroon's name come from?' pick up important issues and questions that need to be spotlighted.



Humanæ, © Angelica Dass

## Photographic work in progress: HUMANÆ by Angélica Dass

Humanæ is a photographic work in progress by award-winning artist Angélica Dass. Currently composed of almost 4,000 portraits from volunteers all around the globe, Humanæ pursues to document humanity's true colors and bring up a critical reflection on the white, red, black and yellow false labels associated with race. The project does not select participants and there is no date set for its completion. It is a journey of open-ended possibilities that enriches the way we see ourselves, beyond faces and colors. Nowadays, the artist has been doing portraits in 36 different cities and 20 different countries.

The American Museum of Natural History is currently showing the portrait photographs of Angélica Dass. Under the title 'Color of you' the aim is to encourage discussion: skin color is abused to classify people into "races", and racial attitudes have long been used to justify discrimination, segregation and genocide. In fact, humans are 99.9 % genetically identical. The exhibition can be visited in New York until August 8, 2021.

[www.angelicadass.com](http://www.angelicadass.com)  
@angelicadass

Pictures: © Banele Khoza  
Interview: Berit Warta

## 12 Questions with **BANELE KHOZA**

In conversation with painter and creator Banele Khoza

**Banele Khoza is the prime example that the African Renaissance is taking place. He is part of a youthful generation, spreading love, art and creativity all over the globe. Thanks to new media, this youth finally found a microphone to make their powerful voice heard. And what they say, sing, form or design, will leave you with nothing but exhilaration.**

**African fine artist Banele does not sing or dance himself, but he lets the colours and brushes swirl over white canvas. He makes sensual pink sway, baby-blue trip and invites green and yellow to a twist, trip, trap.**

**Exploring identity and what it means to be a young artist in Africa, Banele talks male vulnerability, skin colour and his obsession with love.**



**“I am fighting for humanity!**

**We need to realize that we are all equal, before anything else.**

**We are all deserving of this existence, space and are worth belonging in it, regardless of our gender, sexual identification, skin colour or identity.“**



© Banele Khoza

**If you could live anywhere, where would that be?**

I am exactly where I am supposed to be right now.

**What is it like to be part of the young generation in South-Africa?**

It is truly incredible to be part of this young generation, we are more brave than ever – we are seeking alternative ways of being. We are not bound to what is deemed to be our path. We apologize later.

**Do you remember your first approach to art?**

Yes, I was not aware I was making art, I knew I had unlocked a heaven of my own. Especially the works I made on school books that were meant for Math or Science. I got scolded at constantly for all of these. Creating was always at the forefront of my life and interests.

**How would your friends or family describe you?**

Hard working, focused, sincere and obsessed with Love.

**Your art was on exhibition in Zeitz Mocaa – How did it change your path of life?**

It gave me courage to execute my greater ideas, it was a stamp of approval to create my biggest artwork; BKHz.

**You created the BKHz a gallery / shop / studio / artist and project space / let's say a main interface for creative exchange. What made you develop this Space?**

The need of a home, I wanted my children (my art/creative ideas) to be sheltered before they take off.

**The Western World still clings to the cliché that "Africa is a continent that needs to be saved". Future trend research and African youth culture, talk another talk. What do you think the super-power, of the African youth is?**

In my case, I see myself beyond being African, the internet has transformed my reach and thoughts. I watch global content – so I easily identify as a global citizen. That is why I am able to stay in my comfortable home and create from here.

**Can you give us an insight, what it is like to be an artist, that is related to the Queer community, in Africa?**

I am fighting for humanity! We need to realize that we are all equal, before anything else. We are all deserving of this existence, space and are worth belonging in it, regardless of our gender, sexual identification, skin colour or identity.

**Let's take a back journey in time: 25 years ago - Do you think, you could express yourself through art in the same way, as you are able to do it by today?**

My soul operates beyond my physical/time limits, certainly - I would have.

**Your work is beautiful, very deep and intimate. How do you experience male vulnerability and identity through art?**

Thank you. First of all, I live out my life through my mediums of expression. I am a male who is genuinely in love with the colour pink, it is my equivalence of happiness and my soul's colour - so I try to include pink everywhere - bearing in mind society would prefer me in a blue box. I am also someone who prefers being in the background, so my colours are muted (pastel) revealing my gentle, sensitive and quiet attributes.

**Some of your work like 'He wasn't done looking' or 'Look the other way' feels like you portray situations, which are familiar to a lot of people. Where do you get your inspiration from?**

I am inspired by the life I lead - somehow I always find myself in sticky situations, life is constantly saying 'LOL' at me or 'babe that is not your path'. In these situations I get to reflect.

**Vincent Van Gogh said 'I dream of painting and then I paint my dream'.**

**Let's dream together: What is your wish for the future?**

I wish to see artists owning their narrative and painting their dreams into reality.

I wish to see BKhZ grow with its immediate community and infiltrate spaces that we had never imagined possible.

**Banele Khoza**  
**@banelekhoza**  
**@bkhz**  
**@theravenartcollection**  
**www.banelekhoza.com**

© Banele Khoza: Trying to impress 2017 Acrylic on canvas 112 x 92





**BRAND HERO  
OF THE MONTH**  
vol. 01

**“We want people to think of East Africa as a hub for quality products and not just mass produced cheap stuff.**

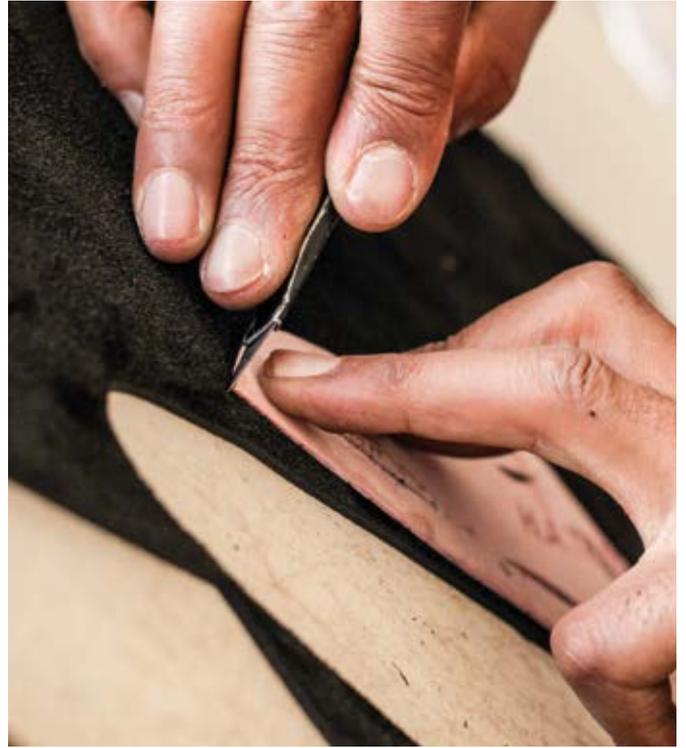
**Africa has always been know for artis-  
anal detailed quality work from the in-  
tricate beading of the Masai to the de-  
tailed artwork from the Ndebele people  
of southern Africa to name only a few.“**



In 2014, Azariah Mengistu and Jawad Braye found-  
ed ENZI, the first premium brand for handmade  
sneakers from Africa.

The two creators work according to fair trade stan-  
dards and pursue a personal goal with their philoso-  
phy and way of working.

The unisex models are traditionally handmade in  
the company's own manufactory in Addis Ababa,  
and made from Ethiopian leather.



*ENZI shoes are crafted from high quality materials. The founders take their time selecting the finest leather to ensure they deliver premium goods to the customers.*



**“With a lot of cheap manufacture moving to the continent, due to wages rising in China, we want to show that it is possible to make premium products here and pay workers a fair liveable wage.”**

Jawad Braye

For the main collection, they work closely with their suppliers to source the highest-quality leather they can find, while making use of off-cut leather for the made-to-order shoes in a bid to produce less waste.

Each pair of shoes is unique and may vary slightly as the used leather is made from animals that have led a full life.

This also adds a much-needed income for the farmers and the local producers.

The company works with a local artisans to produce an eco-friendly shoe box that is made with the fibers of the local enset plant and recycled paper.

Each shoe box is crafted from scratch by hand. Also a small local outreach program is supported that helps vulnerable women with HIV and teaches them an ancient traditional skill of making indigenous cotton fabrics. ENZI sources all the cotton fabrics for bags from this program.

**[www.enzi.com](http://www.enzi.com)**  
**@enzifootwear**



Founders Azariah Mengistu & Jawad Braye



**SAYÉ**

Sayé is a sneaker brand born in 2018, in Barcelona, Spain. When the three founders started, there was only one goal in mind: to make timeless sneakers and use them as a vehicle for a change; a change in people and change on the planet.

From the inside out and from the roots up, a new set of social values started with Sayé, all the way through social and planting projects. The Sayé sneakers are produced in Portugal, using recycled and organic materials. With each sale, two trees are planted.

From the beginning Sayé only wanted to partner with suppliers that respect their workers, improving their life conditions and providing them a good working environment.

[www.sayebrand.com](http://www.sayebrand.com)  
 @sayebrand

# BRANDS

## around the globe

**JAN 'N JUNE**



The Hamburg based founders believe that affordable fashion doesn't mean a trade-off between profit and people or environment. Their garments are produced in Poland and Portugal in family-owned and/or certified factories. All materials are certified.

The manufacturers are visited on a regular basis to define the workmanships for each article and audit the factories. There are contracts with partners which strictly forbid to pass on orders to third parties, so that Jan 'n June can guarantee full transparency throughout their entire production chain. The goal is to build long-lasting partnerships with suppliers.

At Jan 'n June transparency is equally important as social and environmental responsibility.

[www.jannjune.com](http://www.jannjune.com)  
 @jannjune

Timeless leather classics, that will transcend trends and time barriers, made in Dubai. Rich textures, exquisite detailing, craftsmanship intricacies and hand painted emblems. Designer Mohammed focuses on high-quality leather jackets and ready-to-wear pieces. He combines contemporary craftsmanship with an unparalleled aesthetic to create novel and artistic designs - his inspirations come from cinema and art.

With sustainability at its core, this collection is working on a pre-order basis to ensure there is no wastage in production and quality and style are not compromised. Another key component of this collection for The Letter was to ensure that the staff that create the pieces remain well looked after, motivated and keep a positive mindset.

[www.theletter.shop](http://www.theletter.shop)  
 @theletter\_rtw



**THE LETTER**

Bulka by Nina Bogosavljev is a fair trade brand from Serbia specialising in handmade colorful and unique caftan designs. Each of the garments is produced ethically and with natural and carefully chosen fabrics like silk, cotton, wool, viscose and blends of each of these fabrics.

The maximum comfort of the styles arises through the mix of natural textiles and high tailoring levels. Bulka's production is limited, as each caftan is a creative mix and match of colors and patterns - an extensive design process to create a real unique fashion item. The designer herself specializes in one-of-a-kind caftans.

One size fits most body types and is generally very flattering to all female figures. Vests, which are more tailored fits, are available in different sizes.

[www.laliyastore.com](http://www.laliyastore.com)  
 @bulka.babes



**BULKA BABES**

## SUPPORT FOR MORE DIVERSITY.

**“THERE IS NOTHING AS A SINGLE-ISSUE STRUGGLE BECAUSE WE DO NOT LIVE SINGLE-ISSUE LIVES.”  
– AUDRE LORDE**

With the growing demand for more equality and justice, diversity is a big topic in social media. In the meantime, users are not only concerned with conveying their personal standing and solidarity, but also with providing financial support. This support is aimed towards companies founded by minority groups, in particular Black-owned businesses. Under the hashtags **#blackownedbusiness**, **#blackowned** or **#supportblackbusiness**, for example, you will discover endless lists and directories of Black-owned businesses, across every industry sector. Calls for support have also reached offline retailers: In the USA there are numerous supermarkets that display items manufactured by Black-owned businesses. The department store chain **Selfridges** is also taking action by setting up an area for British Black-owned fashion and beauty brands in the London flagship store.

In addition, websites and apps specifically designed to amplify minority-owned companies have already been established. The **We Buy Black** platform describes itself as the 'Black Amazon' and, as an e-marketplace, offers everyday items as well as furniture and jewelry.

The **EatOkra** app makes it possible for you or me to discover over 2,500 Black-owned restaurants in the US, at just the click of a button. The aesthetically pleasing **Chez Nous Guide** website also offers a search function that shows organisations run by Black people, People of Colour, Indigenous People, Women and members of LGBTQIA+ community.

The basic idea behind the support initiatives is always the same: to help strengthen, spotlight and amplify the voices of historically-marginalised people. The success of Black-owned businesses opens up perspectives for generations; young people especially, can use it as a point of reference for their own professional careers. It is a sign of respect and recognition in a world that has made life challenging for minority groups. By helping Black-owned businesses flourish, we can create jobs, empower local communities, and close the racial wealth gap once and for all.



© Gemma Chua-Tran for unsplash



**Mariam Inna Guédé** is founder and CEO of **Miacosa**, a Hamburg based beauty brand, which uses raw materials from West Africa to produce natural cosmetics:

**[www.miacosa.de](http://www.miacosa.de)**

Mariam, why is it so important to promote diversity in companies?

“I think it is extremely important that a company reflects today's society. The world in general is becoming more and more interconnected, which means that different cultures and origins collide. One of the advantages of more diversity in a company is that you create a much broader view and understanding of topics. In addition, various teams are more innovative and creative, as they bring together **'the best of all worlds'** and learn from each other by dealing with the issues.”

© Mariam Inna Guédé

© Xandi Kindermann, Kampala





When we lose the right to be different,  
we lose the right to be free.

– Charles Evans Hughes



Shoot: Style & the gang  
Photographer: Jacek M. Wesolowski  
Assistant: Daniel Kazirod  
Model: Katharina B. No Toys Modelagency  
Stylist: Suzan Ismailoglou  
H&M: Telma Oliveira Pereira

SHOOT 21

# A NEW DESIGN ERA

In the years of fast fashion dominance, many people have lost their craftsmanship – their skills are no longer needed, nor are they being passed down or further developed. This has not only been a loss to them, but a loss to culture and society as a whole.

In the last fashion seasons it has been interesting to see that catwalk designers, such as Sarah Burton have started rediscovering what their home countries and localities have to offer.

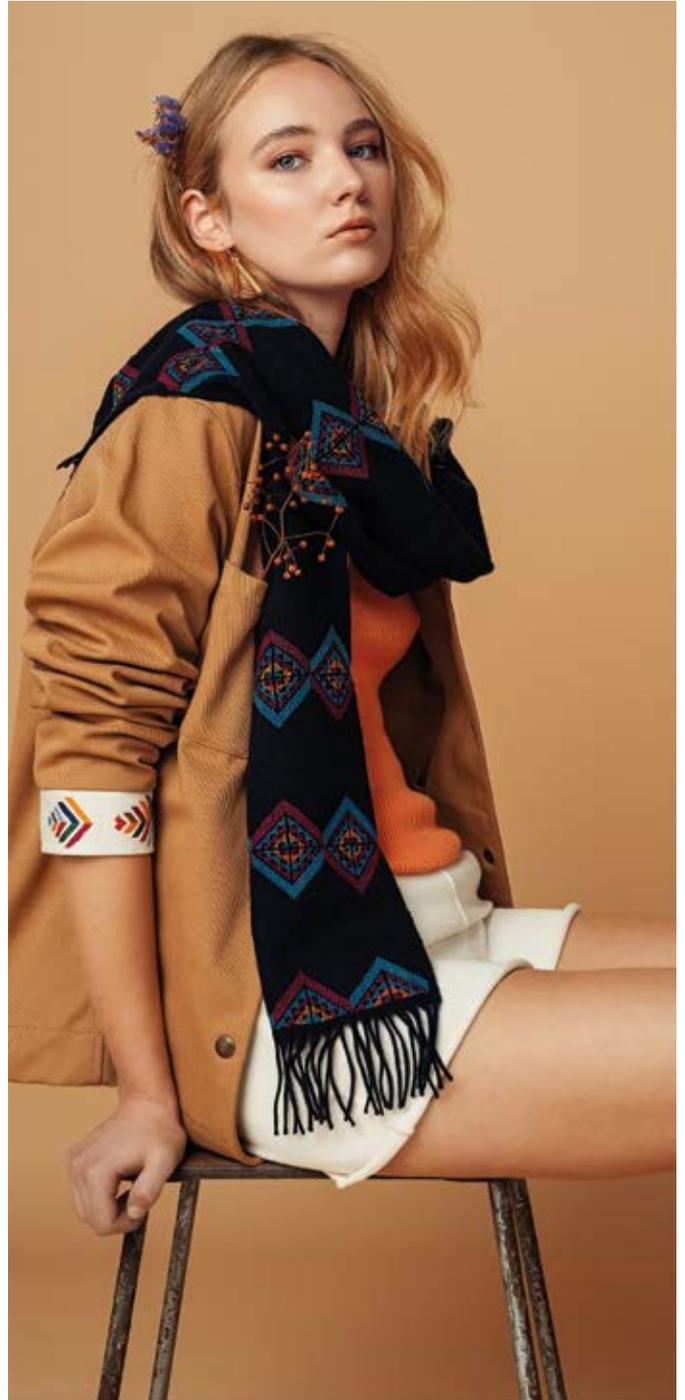
Lots of hidden treasures – some that required a breath of fresh air, like long forgotten specialized weaving mills and traditional manufacturing techniques.

Our editorial shoot shows this type of treasures – from Brazil to Scotland and Jordan.



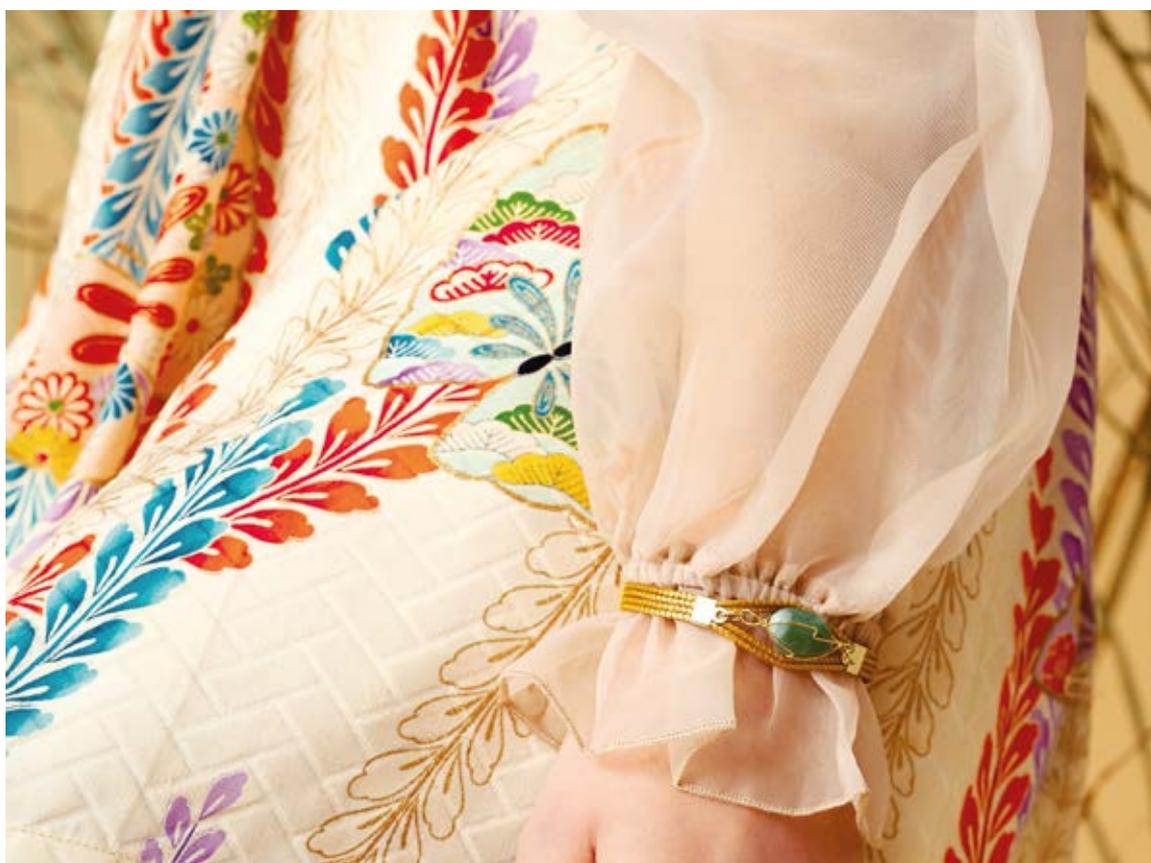
Earrings:	She is from the jungle
Blouse:	Holzweiler
Belt:	Vanzetti
Pants:	L'amour est bleu
Backpack:	Binoar





**Earrings:** She is from the jungle  
**Scarf:** Kannava Stitch  
**Jacket:** Filanda N. 18  
**Top & Shorts:** Jan 'n June  
**Bag:** Utmon est pour Paris





<b>Net bag:</b>	<b>Utmon est pour Paris</b>
<b>Dress:</b>	<b>Odeonia</b>
<b>Top:</b>	<b>Stylist's own</b>
<b>Earrings:</b>	<b>She is from the jungle</b>
<b>Bracelet:</b>	<b>She is from the jungle</b>





## left side

Caftan: Filanda N. 18  
Pants: Valdone Au

## right side

Dress: L'amour est bleu  
Bag: Binoar

**“Individual design, environmentally conscious and ethical behaviour, craftsmanship, tradition and cultural heritage give fashion a beautiful face that stands out of the mainstream.”**

Style & the gang



# FAIR FASHION FAVORITES

Tired of clothes that everyone else wears?  
Follow us into an inspirational world of craftsmanship and  
creativity and discover unique and locally made quality products!



## 01

**Unisex Backpack YASMIN by BINOAR**

Handcrafted from 100 % real goatskin leather that has been vegetable tanned without chemical additives, the model has been manufactured under fair trade conditions in Africa, using leftover products from the meat industry. In addition to the main compartment, the backpack has another section for keys or wallets in the front.

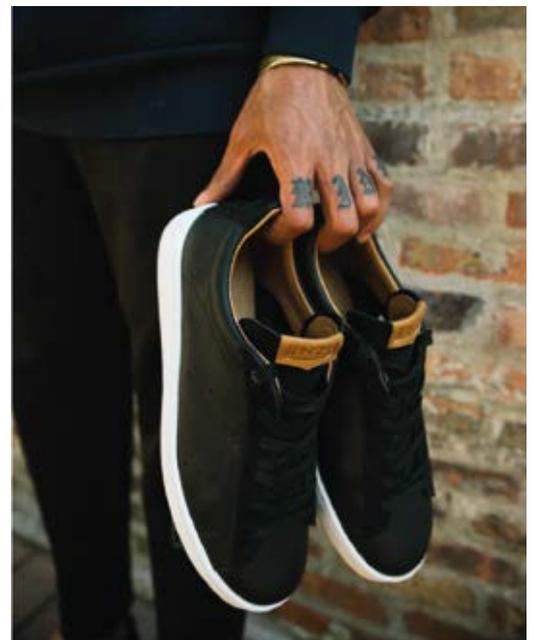
**89,95 Euro**  
**[www.binoar.de](http://www.binoar.de)**  
**@binoarclothing**

## 02

**Unisex Sneakers JAGAMA by ENZI**

Jagama is the latest shoe from Enzi Footwear and can now be pre-ordered worldwide. It's an update of Enzi's classic low-cut style, redesigned for increased comfort and versatility. Handcrafted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from the finest local leathers. Less lining in the quarter section allows the foot to feel less restricted, and the perforation ensures better breathability.

**160,00 US Dollar**  
**[www.enzi.com](http://www.enzi.com)**  
**@enzifootwear**



# 03

## ANAHI Earrings by SHE IS FROM THE JUNGLE

Handcrafted by Brazilian artisans from natural, renewable resources. Made from golden grass, a golden-colored plant that is only found in Brazil - characterized by a fine sheen and particularly light weight. Strong, durable and flexible, fair trade and eco-friendly. The street children project CAMM is supported in Brazil with 10 % of the profit.

**49,00 Euro**

[www.sheisfromthejungle.com](http://www.sheisfromthejungle.com)

@sheisfromthejungle



# 04

## DENIM TOP by MIU SUTIN

A wide look with straps that tie at back of the neck: made of Infnit Denim that consists of 65 % recycled fibers and 35 % lyocell. The organic and fair trade fabrics are made with environmentally friendly treatments in local ateliers. Miu Sutin is guided by social and ecological values and follows a way that respects people, and is based and produced in Barcelona.

**65,00 Euro**

[www.miusutin.com](http://www.miusutin.com)

@miusutin



# 05

## Swimsuit LEAH by LOVE, MARTINA

An elegant one-piece: The swimsuit Leah by Miami-based label Love, Martina has been handcrafted in Colombia. All suits are made locally and cared for in detail by a small group of hardworking women in Medellin. The beachwear comes with recycled tags and packaging, and are meant to last many summers, with the environment in mind.

**85,00 Euro**

[www.lovemartina.com](http://www.lovemartina.com)

@lovmartinaswim

Discover more ethical slow fashion products on our partnering platform [www.styleandthegang.com](http://www.styleandthegang.com)





## COLOURS OF NATURE

Environmentally friendly and unique: Natural dyeing is the DIY trend. Blossoms, fruits and spices give cotton and linen an individual look. Dyeing with organic material is a practice that goes back centuries to old traditions, and a wide variety of dyeing techniques have been handed down, and are just waiting to be tried out. The best part is that you can try these yourself, from the comfort of your home. We collected impressions by Paola McKenna from Studio Folklore to give inspiration and to encourage experiments with colours. The Colombian Paola McKenna founded Studio Folklore - after stops in Argentina and Dublin - in Madrid in 2018. Her work focuses on natural dyeing methods, sustainable textiles, reusable bags and macramé. Handicraft and tradition hold special value to her, something that is influenced by her Latin American roots.

### Want to know more?

Have a look at this article in the Situated Mag, written by Clara Dudley:

[www.situatedmag.com/art-and-culture-blog/home-grown-and-handmade-paola-mckenna](http://www.situatedmag.com/art-and-culture-blog/home-grown-and-handmade-paola-mckenna)

natural dyeing ingredients



**hand-dyed string bags**

"A couple of years ago I started experimenting with natural dyes to give natural colour to my macramé yarn and make my pieces more unique and special. Since then natural dyeing has been an exciting, eye-opening journey that now allows me to dye my own garments and textiles with beautiful natural colours."

Paola McKenna

**do-it-yourself-kit with essential components**





Paola McKenna in her element

**In the mood for your own do-it-yourself kit?**

There are now a few shops online that sell dye sets. Folklore Studio also has them on offer:

[www.StudioFolklore.net](http://www.StudioFolklore.net).

The kits contain all the materials you need, as well as recipes and access to video tutorials.

**Have fun with natural dyeing!**

**scrunchies in natural colours**



Pictures: © Hidhir Badaruddin, YOUNGLAWA  
 Interview: Berit Warta

# SOMEBODY THAT LOOKS LIKE ME

A new narrative for Asian masculinity

In the modern Western World, studying the atlas is a crucial part of geography class. Opening the collection of maps, we let our eyes scan the pages, we let the index finger trace the amazon river, the mind wanders between bubbling volcanoes in Finland, we stand at the foot of the Himalayas and look nine kilometres up.

We are familiar with the atlas, aware of its peculiarity that makes us daydream travel, using the equator as a hula hoop, dancing around the globe without any limitation. Its ultimate purpose lies in locating one's place within an environment, as well as making sense of the geopolitical, social, religious and economic spheres within.

As a former servant of the military and combat photographer, Hidhir Badaruddin might have studied more maps than others, sharpening his sense of orientation. Still, growing up as a queer, brown Asian in Singapore, the media landscape made it difficult for him to track down the place that says: "I can see you – this is where you belong!" Just as if the atlas' creators had forgotten to create space for his community at all.

The issue of underrepresentation of brown Asians and queer identities leaves people like Hidhir often lost and struggling with stereotypes. But while the compass spins in endless turns, Hidhir put his finger on it. He decided the place to start and make a change is everywhere he is. Through sharing his experience and telling stories through his photography he is changing the visual media narrative – aiming to normalise the presence of Asian identities of different origins and sexualities in the media cosmos. In 2020, the London College of Fashion graduate went viral with his

photo series *Younglawwa*, capturing the multiplicity of Asian masculinity and the diversity of Asian heritage. His vision makes him one of the disruptors, constructing a more inclusive and diverse industry for everyone, everywhere.

**Can you tell us a bit about growing up in Singapore and moving to London?**

About three years ago I moved to study Creative Direction at London College of Fashion. Before that I was actually in the army. In Singapore, you must serve in the military, that's mandatory for all males. As much as I did not want to do it, I kind of knew from a young age that at some point I will have to do it. Anyway, I think I have always been into photography. Even in the army. I took over the role of combat photographer when the opportunity came up. Then I moved to London and in uni, I started doing test shoots, had my first publication with Gay Times magazine, where I shot five male trans models and in my final year at the end of 2019, I started my series *Younglawwa*.

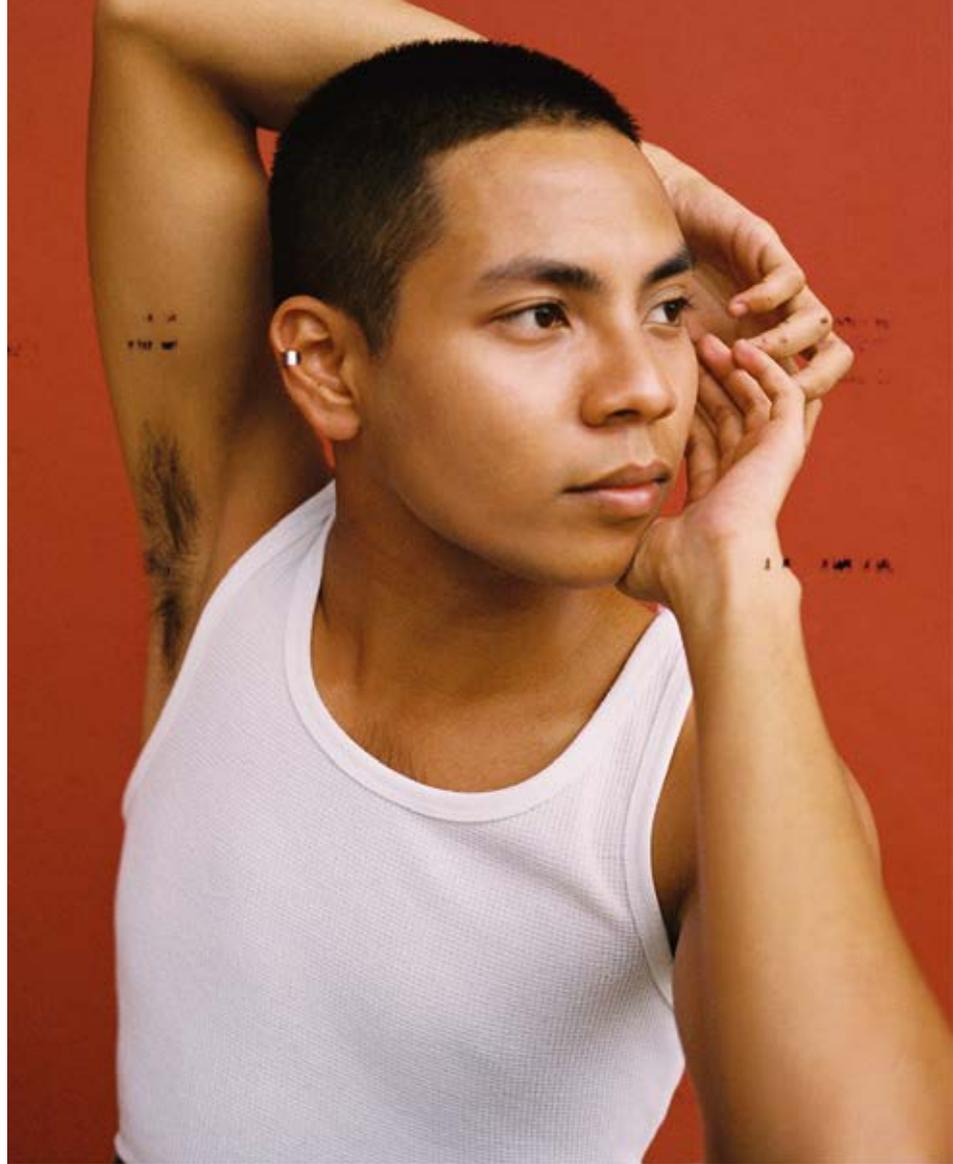
**What does Younglawwa mean?**

It is a play on words in English and Malay. I thought it would be nice to introduce both. In Malay *Younglawwa* literally means something that is beautiful or someone that is beautiful. I had this idea for a couple of years already because I think being in London made me view the things I had back home and took for granted in a different light.

**What does back home sound or smell like?**

I would describe my home, Singapore, as being very colourful. It is diverse in the sense of it is a mix of people, very multi-racial. You get different kinds of food everywhere.



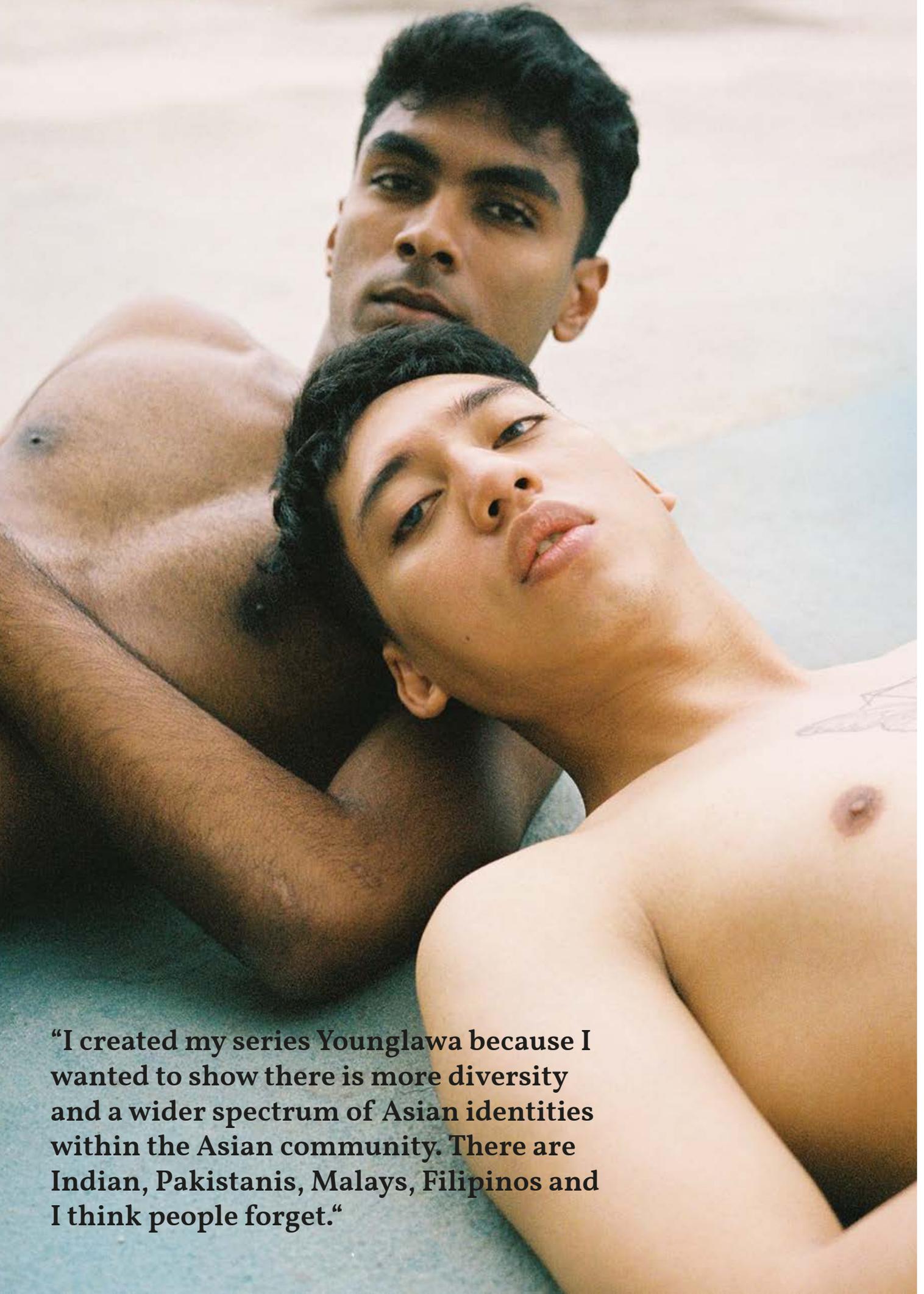


I grew up with that kind of mix but when you grow up with it you don't see it as something special. Coming here made me realise I miss the food and messiness of different cultures being together. But as much as it is colourful, it is still backward in a sense of LGBTQ rights - which are *non-existent*. That's an issue very much not spoken about. I grew up not seeing representation of queer people. You don't see the colourfulness in gender expression diversity. There was no outlook. My outlook was through magazines like Dazed & Confused or i-D. I also saw more representation through Western media than my own local media back home. Talking about media representation in Singapore - it was still very much like lighter skin and fair skin people being more favoured in media.

**Some friends from Malaysia made me aware of the popular skin-lightening products huge companies put out there. They offer products, creating a kind of dangerous desire...**

Colourism does exist! Even in the Asian community where lighter skin tones are favoured. This means Chinese or Korean or any lighter people were more present in the media. But this made me realise I want to change the visual narrative. I created my series *Younglawa* because I wanted to show there is more diversity and a wider spectrum of Asian identities within the Asian community. There are Indian, Pakistanis, Malays, Filipinos and I think people forget.

The idea for the series was triggered when I was at a house party in London. Someone I was talking to asked me: "Oh what kind of Asian are you?" and I answered: "I am Indian and Malay". The persons were reacting kind of confused. They did not want to tell me, but I could tell in a sense that they might only see a lot of people from China, Japan or Korea. However, what you see in fashion, at Versace for example, is that brands try introducing more diversity through Asian and black models. But when you see the Asian models - they are all very fair skin. Darker skin people are never really given that platform and this is what I wanted to tackle with *Younglawa*. But obviously, the series got cut short because of Covid.



**“I created my series Younglawa because I wanted to show there is more diversity and a wider spectrum of Asian identities within the Asian community. There are Indian, Pakistanis, Malays, Filipinos and I think people forget.”**



I was lucky that I shot four or five boys when I was in Singapore in December 2019.

**How did you feel after the situation at the house party?**

Obviously, I was taken a bit aback. But, I immediately put myself in their shoes, imagining they might have not been exposed to a diverse community growing up. Afterward I thought that what I do is visual and everything you see you see on social media or the television influences the way you think and the way you see life. So, working in media anyway I saw the opportunity to change the narrative visually.

With *Younglawa*, I want to show that there is a wider spectrum of diversity within the Asian community because I think a lot of people are just thinking about Asian people by one look. People always think I am Hawaiian for example. I felt like there is space for the series. And even though it never got finished, *Dazed and Face* magazine picked it up. That really opened my mind to explore this further. I am now actually in the works of creating a book and making an exhibition for *Younglawa*. Maybe in a year's time. I don't want to rush the process. And also because I got the £10k Getty Images Grant which I did not see coming. So, this opened my eyes and made me realise, there is something here, people seeing something in your work.

**Do you feel personally responsible to push for more visibility for brown Asians?**

Oh yes! It was definitely more like the responsibility developed. I knew it was important but I realised HOW important it is when I got messages from people from the Philippines and Indonesia, some random direct messages on Instagram because people came across articles online and messaged me, saying they felt glad to be represented in a way they have not been before. Now I start to feel the pressure

because I want to do it really well.

**What you created is very much like making people aware of a red traffic light that has always been there but has just been ignored.**

Yes! I was talking to some people within photography about the photographer Ren Hang and realised that his work was the go-to for Asian representation and Asian masculinity. When you see Ren Hang's pictures, they are very much one look of Asians. He captured people from where he is from, which is China, and to me, the people are photographed in a not very strong, a bit weak, maybe a bit more fragile way. I do not want to live up to the stereotype.

**What makes you feel like belonging and secure?**

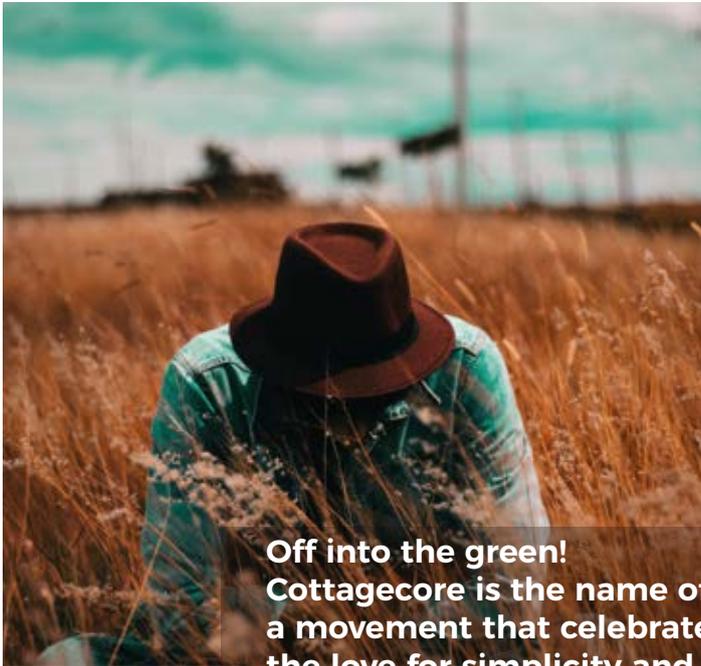
Doing photography! I know this is very cliché but creating images that I have in my head – this is what makes me feel very comfortable. It makes me feel secure, but at the same time this security comes with insecurity because what you are creating has consequences.

**So, what's next for you?**

I am currently working on developing *Younglawa*. My friends are asking me all the time if I am creating *Younglawa* 2.0. I do not see it that way because it was never finished. I guess many people don't understand that it got cut short because of the pandemic. My plan now is to take it to the U.K., photographing Asian identities here but also, taking it back home again and show the juxtaposition between the two – geographically. Because they are in different locations but they are all Asian men. At the end of the day I just want to show people we are all the same. And we exist. No matter where we are from.

@thehidhir

Pictures: FLTR: Allef Vinicius Okir @ Unsplash, Zachary Ferguson @ Unsplash, Rodgers Otieno @ Unsplash, Clem Onojeghuo @ Unsplash



Off into the green!  
Cottagecore is the name of a movement that celebrates the love for simplicity and nature. Gain some inspiration for your individual cottage style!



# garden story

“Everyone can identify with a fragrant garden, with beauty of sunset, with the quiet of nature, with a warm and cozy cottage.”  
- Thomas Kinkade

Pictures: FLTR: Nikohoshi @ Unsplash, Pozruh Cross a Line, Priscilla Du Preez @ Unsplash



A successful mix of rustic and charming – denim overalls and raw denim looks can proudly stand alongside lightly flowing cotton dresses



Vintage clothes in particular find their rightful place in these nostalgic looks: lace dresses, embroidery elements and hats



Beautiful cottagcore insta accounts:  
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