

DUJAUN KIRK

BLASCULINITY MAGAZINE



Learn more about mental health and masculinity by reading about the meaning of each portrait in the prospective of each of the models.

The mental health and masculinity infographic magazine based off interviews of the models by Dujaun Kirk.

N A S I R

Tap into that emotion ... you know it's daunting at first to go against what you're taught and your family beliefs and ideals. But, as black men we've grown up with so much put against us and to internalize all of that can really take a toll on your mental wellness.

A yellow rose is the flower representing Nasir's mental health and masculinity. The Yellow rose symbolizes contentment. Nasir is content with who he is; he isn't afraid to talk about his relationship with the topic of Mental Health & Masculinity.

Nasir's masculine features such as his facial hair and thick eyebrows, were two of the aspects of himself that he likes to highlight to challenge the idea of Masculinity. The glitter on his eyebrows and mustache highlights external features of masculinity.

Nasir's favorite color is pink. The pink water falling out of his eyes is his want for people to view Masculinity and Mental health in his perspective, as something light, vivid and something that stands out.

The background used for Nasir's photo represents his feelings about Mental health & Masculinity. Meaning that it's in its own world, its own world that should be bright and welcoming to the topic.





The rhododendron is the flower that represents Micah's Mental Health & Masculinity. The rhododendron means strength. Micah is a trans-man so this topic is very touching to him.

The fragments on his face represents the way in which outside influences try to alter the way he represents and views himself.

Micah wanted to highlight all of his features because of the challenge that comes with being a trans-man. The glitter on his face highlights his struggle with Mental Health & Masculinity.

The effect of his body falling to the ground like sand, represents his feeling of being stripped from the world that does n't understand his struggle with mental health & masculinity.

The water falling out of his eyes symbolizes his cry for help. His Mental health & Masculinity is something that he struggles with because he doesn't always appear to be a man. However, he knows that he is.

The background used for Micah's portrait represents his current state of Mental health & Masculinity. While he is aware of his own mental health and masculinity, he still feels like he experiences it alone because he is a trans-man.

It's okay to cry, It's okay to hug someone, It's okay to say I love you, it's okay to be yourself however you want and not be judged .

MICAH

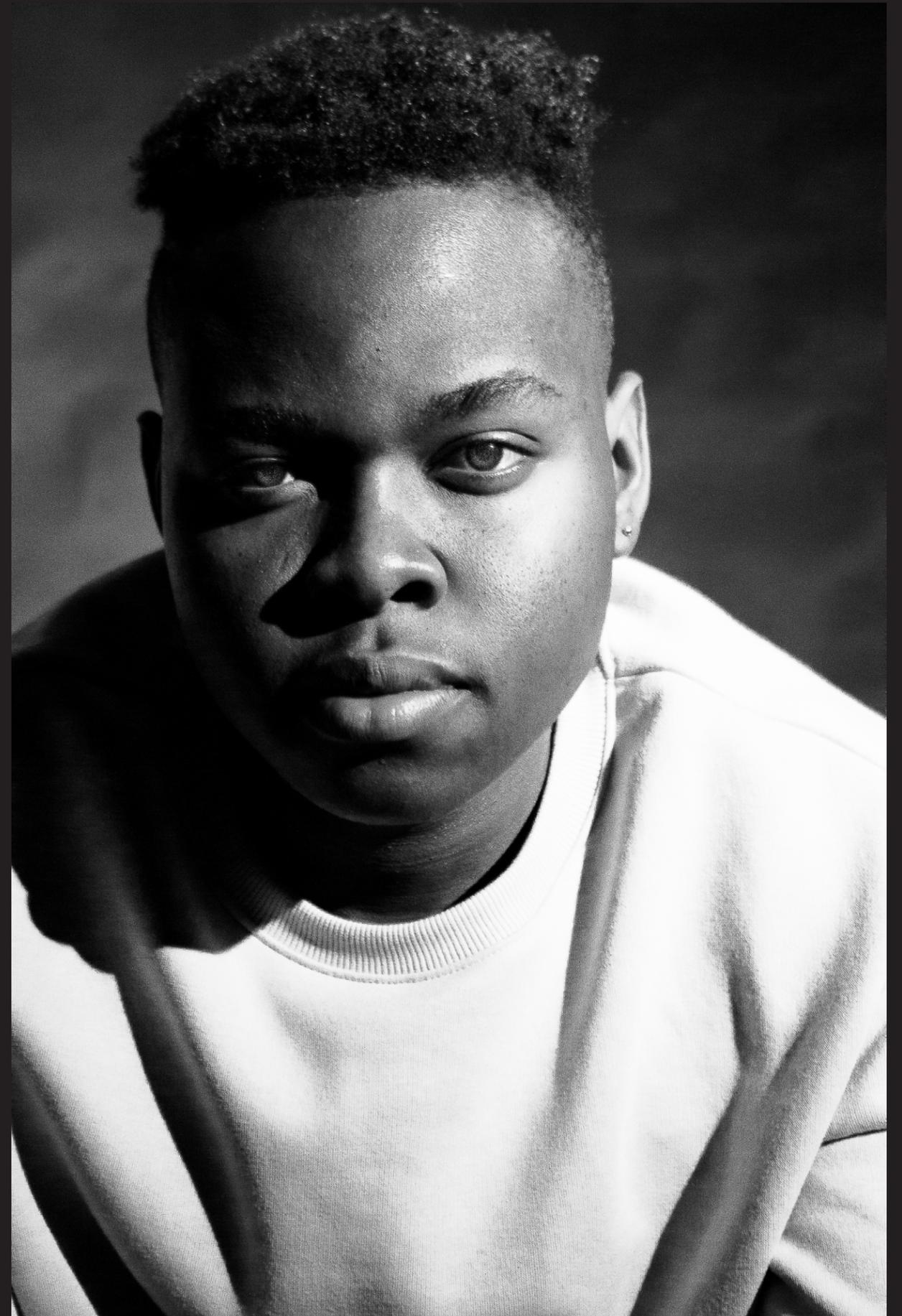
OLIVIER

The issue of Mental Health and Masculinity in the Black community is ignorance and the lack of knowledge.

The Narcissus is the flower that represents Olivier's Mental health & Masculinity, which means pride. In his interview, he was very aware of his mental wellness and masculinity. He showed pride in his understanding of himself.

There were no facial fragments in his portraits because outside influences doesn't have a role in the way he acknowledges his Mental Health and Masculinity. However, he believes that societal influences do play a huge role in defining the role of Black Men.

Olivier doesn't let society define who he is as a man. Instead he is in complete control of his Mental Health and Masculinity. Therefore, he doesn't have a flow of water coming out of his eye but instead he has radiance. Radiance in the way his perspective of Mental Health and Masculinity shapes the strong man that he has become.





GRANT

Geranium is the flower that describes Grant's perspective of Mental Health and Masculinity. Geranium means sincerity. He was sincere in the way he spoke about the topic in a way that he knew it was power and truth in his words.

At first glance, the portrait may portray him to be angry. However, he isn't. The boldness of the composition represents how sincere he really is in regards to speaking about Mental Health and Masculinity.

He knows his perspective is valuable and well thoughtout. Based off of his interview, he wants the world and the Black community to value Black men's Mental Health & Masculinity. The lava coming out his eyes represents his desire to urgently spread awareness about the complexity of Black Men's Mental Health and Masculinity.

Grant is also aware that society has a huge and powerful role in the way Black Men's social roles are portrayed in the world. However, he knows that society doesn't hold enough power to dictate the way he acknowledges Mental Health & Masculinity in his own life. He urges other Black Men to not let society have control of their well being and to ultimately take control and responsibility of who they are.

Society says that as a black man ... you're not allowed to show deeper emotions. I think that, that's one of the biggest shortcomings that you can have as a man. Not thinking that showing emotion is acceptable or an admirable quality. But really it is ... and some people find value in that.

JACQUES

I have strong women in my life who give me advice. And I also have strong relationships with people and with all of those combined, I can say I am making strides towards having a well balanced mental health.

Gentian is the flower that best represents Jacques's perspective on Mental Health & Masculinity in Black Men. Gentian means Gratitude. Although, he did not know much about the topic he was still optimistic in reflecting on his own Mental Health & Masculinity.

When Jacques mentioned that he had powerful women in his life. That stood out to me as something that he truly values and pays great respect to in terms of how he thinks of own Mental Health & Masculinity. The highlighted hands in this portrait symbolizes those women who nurture, love and care for him.

Jacques perspective is a valuable one, because although he never thought about Mental Health & Masculinity in his life. He took the interview as a reflection of his Mental Wellness. At the end of his interview he expressed that he was more aware of the importance of acknowledging Mental Health and Masculinity in himself and the Black community. The flow of water streaming from his eyes represents his willingness to be vulnerable in acknowledging his Mental Health and Masculinity.

