

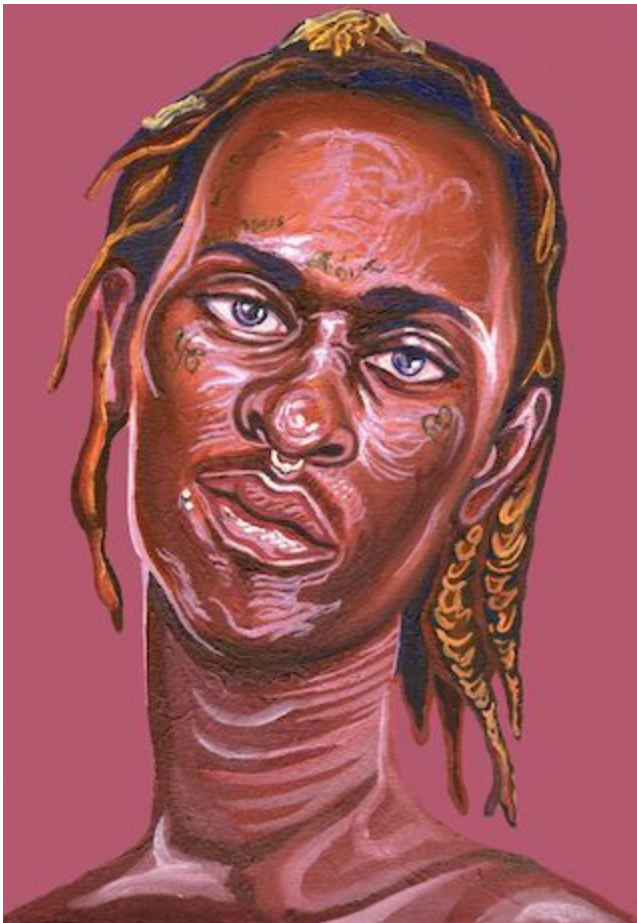
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Design For Journalist
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Writing for Design For Journalist

Words to Play With!

- GENERATION Z
- HYPERMASCULINITY
- MASC
- FEM
- GENDER NORMS
- FREEDOM
- FLUIDITY
- SHIFT CULTURE
- *When it comes to swag, there's no gender involved.*

Generation Z, has done nothing but, challenge the social constructs the American society has placed upon us by society. In 2016 we have shifted culture and perception of what it means to be a boy. Boys are now allowed to be expressive, feminine and even wear make-up. The youth is the future -- Our generation is generally more accepting and welcoming which given people the ability to live in their truth and to truly be who they want to be!



Piece 1: Rapper Young Thug on Gender Norms

In the past few months, Atlanta born rapper Young Thug, popular in both mainstream and the hood, has been combatting gender normalities placed upon black men. On July, 7, 2016 in his shoot for CALVIN KLEIN AW16 CAMPAIGN he's stated *In my world of course, it don't matter* he says *You could be a gangster with a dress, you could be a gangster with baggy pants. I feel like there's no such thing as gender.* Young Thug is carefree. His personal style is eccentric as he mixes womenswear with menswear; so when he made this statement it does not come as a surprise.

Recently, In a new interview with Billboard, Young Thug once again addressed the topic of

gender norms and hyper-masculinity speaking more about his fluid fashion approach, admitting to the magazine that he plans to wear a *statement gown* for his upcoming wedding to his bride-to-be Jerrika Karlae. *There will be two brides* he reveals. *When it comes to swag, there's no gender involved.* One could question, how genius the statement Young Thug has been making are, skeptical of the ulterior motives that coincide with his celeb.

However, This statement alone powerful due and opens a larger conversation on the social constraints placed upon men. The fragility in masculinity is ridiculous. Young Thug has even stated *When I was 12, my feet were so small I wore my sisters' glitter shoes*, he says. *My dad would whoop me: You're not going to school now, you'll embarrass us!* But I never gave a fuck what people think. For many years men could not show any signs of femininity without being considered gay. This notion was intensified within the urban black community. But, it's 2016 and our perceptions on what is acceptable are constantly changing. Young Thug is representing a new generation.

Generation Z, is A generation of less restrictions and more freedom. Hypermasculinity is beginning to fade and become an archaic concept to be considered or viewed as masculine; which is heightened within the urban black community. — Boys are now allowed to be feminine; without being gay.

Piece #2 : Breaking Boundaries - ???

Survey #1 : This survey will be coupled with photos! - MAKEUP

When do you as a male identifying human feel the most masculine?

When do you as a male identifying human feel the most feminine?

Survey #2 - Masculinity Interview

Name/Age/Hometown/Profession?

What does being a man mean to you?

Who is the epitome of a man in your opinion?

Is it okay to want to "be manly" or is that sexist.

Is the societal perspective on the male role positive or negative? Why?

What makes a person masculine?

Is masculinity learned behavior or something genetic?

What are the worst elements of masculinity? How do you feel we change them?

What makes you feel masculine?

When did you realize you were masculine and why?

Is it okay to call another guy pretty? - Would you tell another man he is attractive?

How do you personally work on your own masculinity to be the best person you can be? Or do you at all?

Is it harder as a male to express emotion?

Do you cry?

Artist of The Month!

Chad Murdock's Profile - @chadmurdock

"The Jonesii Parker Tape", though the mixtape is short it's full of promise from the young "SONGBOY". Chad Murdock becomes his extroverted alter-ego "Jonesi Parker," revealing his innermost thoughts on these 10 tracks. I would say the tape is experimental R&B. It is a well constructed body of work that merges house beats, the sounds of nature, and classic R&B rhythms with the occasionally humorous anime ad-lib. This mixtape sounds like a live-stream of his conscious thoughts. On some tracks Murdock pays homage to artists such as, Kilo Kish and Toro Y Moi embodying their melodic flow. On other tracks he's venting expressing esoteric teenage angst. Throughout, the mixtape Murdock began to carve out his own lane in music, creating his own sound.

Chad would you describe yourself as a musician?

I don't believe in boxes or placing labels on things, I am not Chad the filmmaker, I'm not Chad the musician; I am just Chad the human.

I went to Haiti a few months back and fed homeless kids on the street. That's something I really want to do for the rest of my life. I just want to be the best human I can possibly be.

Who's on your playlist? What musicians do you admire and why?

I don't know what artists are on my playlist right now but, I know what I like, I love music that makes me feel something. I also like the background music I hear when I'm watching anime. But, I listen and admire Marvin Gaye, Childish Gambino, and Toro Y Moi. I love those guys because all of them began creating one sound, but then ventured off choosing their own path. Also, though each of them gets placed into a genre, they can still be considered as "pop music" or music that appeals to the masses.

What are your thoughts on "pop music"?

Hmmm... At first I didn't like pop music but, now I think pop music is cool.

Would you consider yourself a rapper? On some of the songs you started to rap. Is rapping a hidden talent?

I don't know... I can rap I guess. I don't do it as often as I should because I don't like my voice when I rap. On some of the songs I will spit something really "fire" but, people get lost in the sound of my voice versus what I am actually saying. I'll be like "Man this shit is fire!" but they won't get it.

I do enjoy rapping. When I was younger my friends and I would freestyle but I could never really do it. As I increased my vocabulary I was able freestyle and started to rap more.

The song “Yesterday’s Party” my favorite off of “The Jonesi Parker Tape” was that paying homage Kilo Kish?

Yeah! Yeah! It was I forgot to mention her earlier! She’s definitely an inspiration and that song was definitely an homage to her!

How are you going to separate yourself from these famous musicians to create an image of your own?

I feel like I look like Chad! *laughs*.

I think this mixtape or collection or whatever you would like to call it, this was my first time creating music. I like making music that has a narrative; music that is transformative. I want it to feel euphoric.

But, my main goal as an artist is to be a storyteller. My next project is going to clearly define my sound.

When should we expect new music from Chad Murdock? What's the sound of the new album going to be like?

I will be releasing a full-length album soon. I started working on it already. It’s going to have lots of instruments. The sound will be a mix between Congo instrumental and eighties-synth music. You should expect a lot of visuals but, I don’t think a lot of the songs are going to have words. I just want it to create a feeling.

Insert-Soundcloud-Link

Rahm Bowen Profile - @rahm