

JAMAL

24•Black•Gender Non-Conforming•He/Him/They/Them•Brooklyn

Femme means all of the things and none. I believe that it represents possibility for me. It represents the possibility of an otherized world, of self-determination and self-making. **Femme means possibility, self-determination, self creation.**

For me, identifying as Femme has been a journey. I can't say when or where because this has been a part of my life for a really long time. Even before I could add language to it, I always found ways to subvert and perform a self that I wanted to perform. **Femme feels like home. At home with self.**

I think for me, what my **embodied Femme looks like is many things.** That's what I mean when I say Femme is possibility. I affirm and believe that it doesn't just look like one thing. Femme is an embodiment of lived experience and struggle that is open for many people to tap into. That's what possibility looks like for me, it looks like so many things.

I struggle with lots of microaggressions in relation to my Femme identity...like passive aggressive microaggressions and people conflating my Femme gender nonconforming identity with transness.

One should have the freedom and ability to gender self-determine as they please. I think it's a freedom that everyone deserves. And what I need from other Femmes is what I give to them: Love, space, support.