

office



YG, 070 Shake & Sophia Diana Lodato, Phoebe Bridgers, SZA, Aya Brown, Jeremy O. Harris, Jonathan Meese, Reginald Sylvester II, Kimberly Drew, Evan Mock, Aaron Philip, Pierre Hardy, Lauren Wasser, Eugene Souleiman, Paul Cupo & Raul Lopez, Bert Krak, Odd Matter, Cai Guo-Qiang, DeAndre Hopkins, Yoon Ahn, Na-Kel Smith, Michael Uzowuru, Dr. Lakra, Pamela Rosenkranz, Jeffrey Cheung, Andrea Mary Marshall, Dexter Navy



Harder Than Ever Before

Aya Brown

Artwork, Photography and Creative Direction Aya Brown
Text Marz Lovejoy

Rainbow strap-ons, gold chains, tatted realness, wet lips, fat asses, and a main course of melanin: Aya Brown draws her truth.

The 23-year-old Brooklynite is a young, Black Lesbian artificer who has carved out a cultural niche in a world where Black women have long been told who, what, where, when and how. She layers this context with queerness and sexuality, responding with vital reclamation of her own unique narrative. Unafraid and unapologetic, she decides who, what, where, when and how.

Aya's scenic depictions beam with ghetto nuance and seduction. Her work is intersectional—she takes artifacts from Black and queer culture and fuses them, putting a face to the often unseen. Aya's art suggests that lowbrow is the latest highbrow response to boring straight white male culture. Her style draws upon figures both living and deceased, from Missy Elliott to Toni Morrison. It's nasty foreplay and sensual love. It's Black Lesbian pride.

"It is one of my biggest missions in life to document my own history, BLACK LESBIAN history," she tells *office*. "This is not a game of telephone. I don't want a little Black girl to learn *about us*, from anyone *but us*."





Aya, Artist. Brooklyn, NY





Ash B, Qween Beat Artist. Newark, NJ



Frenchy, Designer and Dancer. Far Rockaway, NY



AYA BROWN



S.WHiT, DJ and Creative, Monique Ransom, Stylist. Queens, NY



Mikey, Photographer. Harlem NY



Dayo, Speech Therapist. Bed-Stuy, NY, Cynthia, Autism Spectrum Disorders Masters Student. Dallas, TX



Helen with the Gold Teeth, Jewler and DJ. East Village, NY



Alexis, Artist and Hairstylist and her mother Salystina, Physical Therapist Aid. South Bronx, NY



Cake, Tattoo Artist, and Britt, Co-Founders of Girls Only.
Coney Island, NY



Special pieces seen throughout by AYA BROWN
for MADEME and DV8 by FRENCHY

