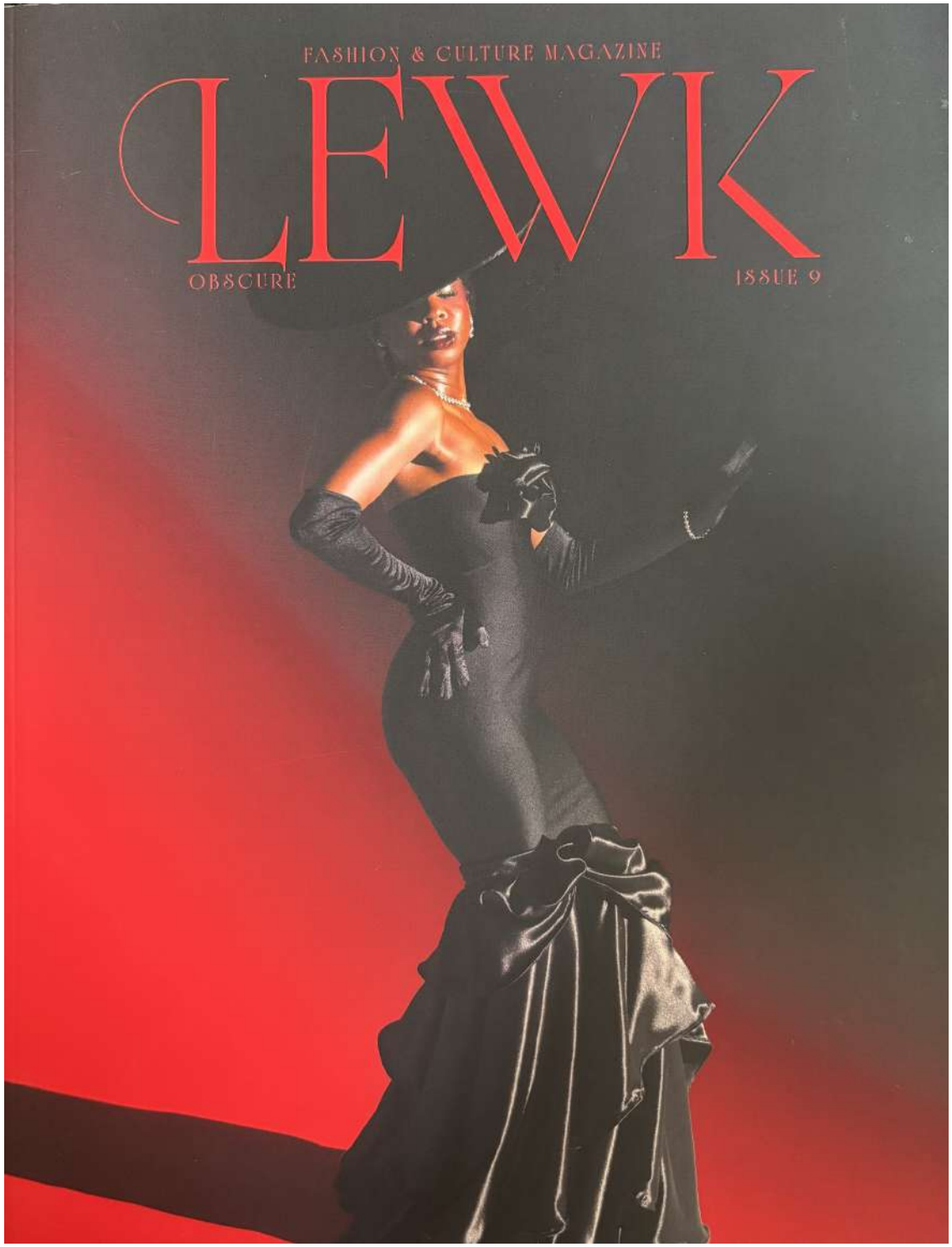
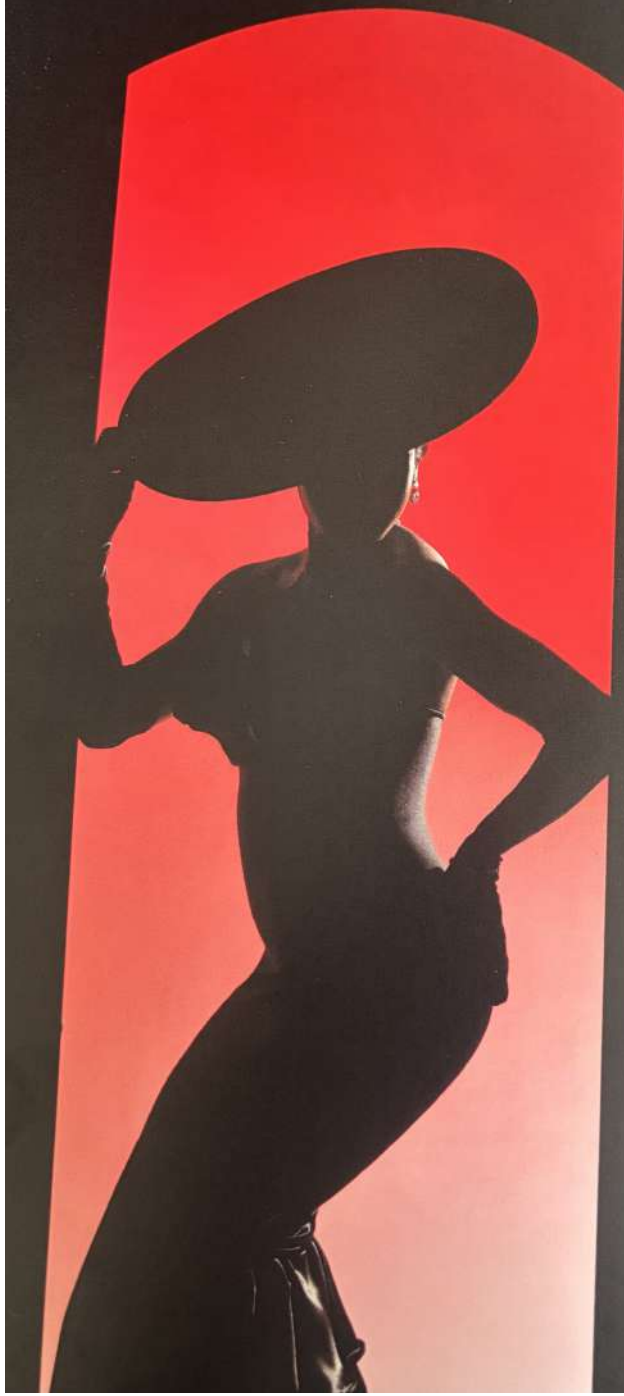

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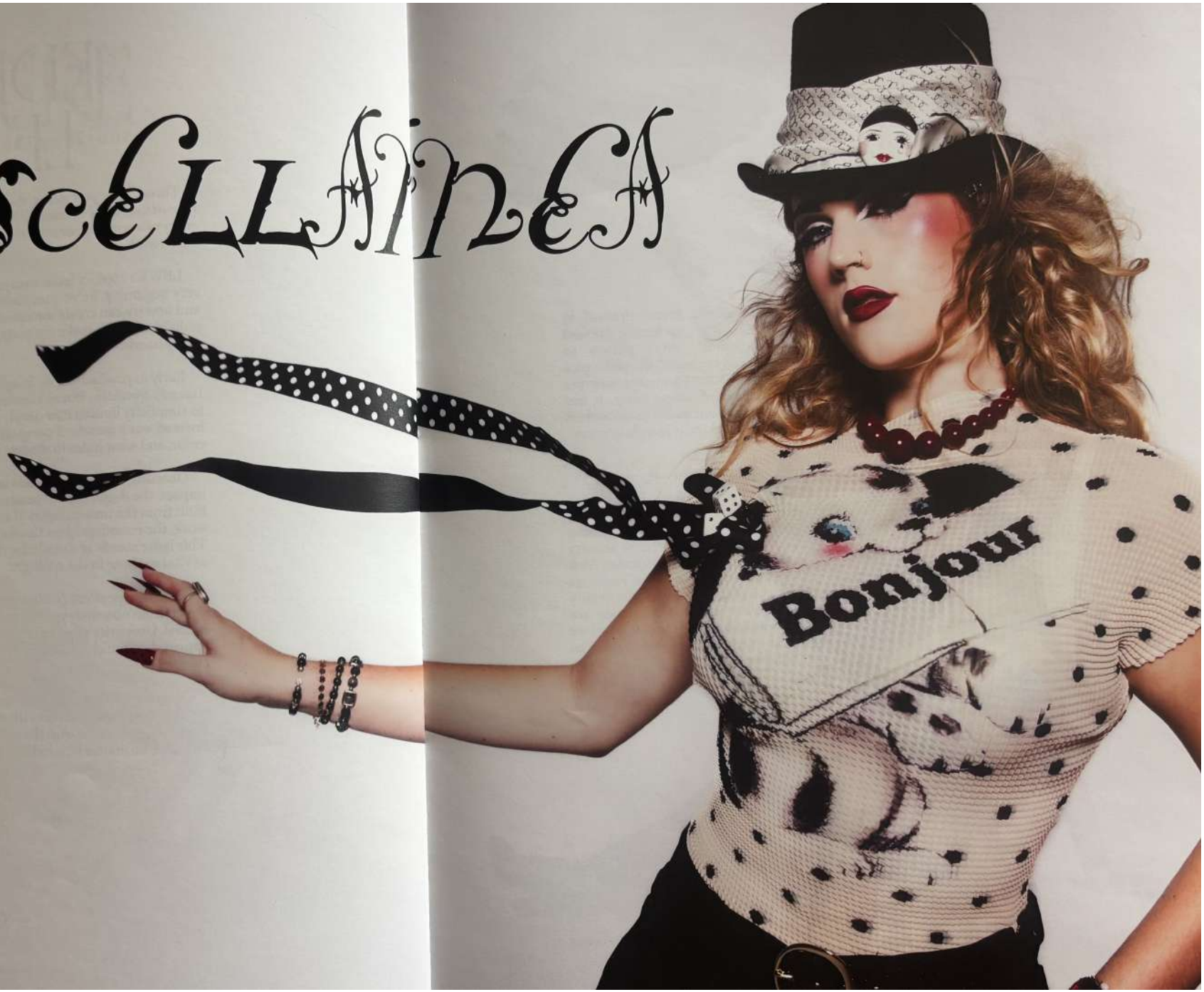
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Miscellanea



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Miscellanea springs from the mind of Co-Art Director Helen Fiske. Initially, her concept aimed to capture the maximalist aesthetics of iSpy, but she knew she would need to dig deeper.

"I want[ed] this to have significance," Fiske said. "I wanted to uplift some kind of community and I was like, you know what, I want to [have] all trans models."

Legislating against trans bodies in the United States dates back to the late 1840s, with scholars citing Columbus, Ohio's 1848 crossdressing ordinance as one of the first instances of antitrans rhetoric in American law.



"If any male be found dressed in female apparel, or any female dressed in male apparel... every person so offending, shall be fined," the ordinance said. This emphasis on maintaining the gender binary continues today. It has erupted into full out mania as lawmakers hasten to exclude trans people in every

facet of soceity.

"Every day I have to make the impossible choice between [dressing with] authenticity and safety," nonbinary poet, comedian, and public speaker Alok Vaid-Menon said at Business of Fashion's Voices conference in 2019. "Our beauty cannot coexist with the lives they are living because we reveal that it is not we who wear the masks. I repeat. It is not us who wear the masks."







Amidst drills humming and sand thudding on the floor, the consequences of Fiske creating a set from scratch, Constance Calohan, the star of Miscellanea, said fashion plays an enormous role in making her feel authentic and at home in her skin. Fashion allows her to navigate society with confidence as a trans woman, unbridled by the masks people wish to force on her.

"I loved fashion and clothes before I fell in love with makeup, so I think... that had more of an impact [when] I was in elementary school and middle school, watching Mugler and Dior runways," Calohan said. "That definitely shaped my identity at the very start, using clothes as a

way to express how I feel on the inside & how I want to be perceived."









When asked why people cling to a binary and push trans people into obscurity, Fiske and Calohan shared similar responses.

"It's honestly just based out of fear and ignorance," Calohan said. "I think that people are scared of what is different, what is not like them... A lot of people surround themselves with people [who], you know, kind of embody who they already are."

"The obvious answer would be that there's plenty of transphobic people," Fiske said.

"But I think... they don't want to see a bad b*tch look amazing. [People] get overwhelmed by how fearless trans expression can be... It's scary [to them] because it's like, 'Damn. [They're] not hiding anything. [They're] being exactly who they are.'"

Menon masterfully articulates human kind's proclivity to project their fears on The Man Enough Podcast in 2021. They expand on Fiske and Calohan's observations about fear holding humanity back from

true self expression.



"We're self-sabatoging... We keep on mistaking the prison as another home," they said. "The only gender rule is that there are no rules..., and people hear that as a threat and not an invitation." It seems fear is the primary drive behind intentionally obscuring trans people to the margins. Humans are mammals, after all, and most mammalian drives are often rooted in fear, for it is the ultimate obscurity. What is unknown is unfamiliar, foreign, and therefore dangerous.

The maximalism of Miscellanea indulges in the chaos intolerant people believe gender nonconforming folks bring to the world. However, it unveils trans identity as sophisticated, glamorous, and multifaceted, quelling their

fear of what lies outside of the binary through fashion.





Trans joy is miraculous.

In the midst of increasingly discriminatory legislation, Lewk Magazine ventures to spotlight trans people as pinnacles of humanity, as valued members of society worthy of

dignity, respect, & happiness.