



DOCUMENTING STYLE
CLASSICS ISSUE

Paris: a journey into the heartland of Japanese denim
Surfing: brand new again
Paris: a portrait of Paris
Clash: Hiroki Nakamura

ISSUE 19, SPRING/SUMMER 2011
PRINTED IN THE NETHERLANDS
PRICE NL 8,95 EURO

CODE 01911

\$12.95

PRINTED IN NETHERLANDS





AMANI OLU

SHIRT: BANANA REPUBLIC
JACKET: BANANA REPUBLIC
PANTS: BANANA REPUBLIC
TIE: J.CREW
SHOES: ALLEN EDMONDS
POCKET SCARF: VINTAGE

— *Amani Olu* —



Ebullient and quick-witted, Amani Olu just might be the one person you'd want beside you both at the Louvre and at a bar discussing American rom-coms over a single-malt Scotch. The author, art dealer, curator and founder of the Humble Arts Foundation turned heads by organizing "Young Curators, New Ideas," an exhibition that, for a change, beamed the spotlight on emerging curators. Now he curates under the alias Mr. & Mrs. Amani Olu.

What inspired you to become a curator?

I started working on the administrative side of Humble Arts Foundation. It wasn't until I took a job at the now-defunct Bond Street Gallery that I was required to curate. I had been in NY for three years at that point, and while I was a little nervous about curating initially, it turned out that it came naturally—that is, having ideas and wanting to represent them visually.

People always told me I had a good eye, even before I knew what that meant. Obviously, my eye is more developed and educated now.

How did "Young Curators, New Ideas" come about?

Well, it wasn't born out of wanting to work with curators. When I was working at Bond Street Gallery, they decided to stay open in August after many weeks of saying they would close. Anyway, they decided we were

to open, but I didn't have a show ready, and I didn't have time to put one together, so I called all my friends who said they wanted to do a show at the gallery. I came up with a name that was controversial enough to pique the interest of people, and that was it.

The concept now is simple; it's a venue for young curators to experiment with ideas.

What are some of the challenges you face in the art world?

The biggest challenge is finding the time and the money to get it all done, being able to get enough rest, telling yourself that things will be okay, even though you have no idea how things will get paid for, really believing in your ability to succeed. So the biggest challenges are all the thoughts in my head that work against me when the going gets tough.

How do your careers as an independent curator and as director of a nonprofit for emerging photographers impact each other?

One leverages the other. Humble's mission is to promote and support new art photography. As an independent curator, Mr. & Mrs. Amani Olu, I use that to do all the things that are not appropriate for Humble; it's a place for my writing and own ideas. But they both help each other. People meet me in different ways, and when they find out about the other things, it really helps establish me as someone who is committed to this work.

What artists should people look out for in 2011?

Kate Steciw and Elad Lassry. Those are my two favorites right now.
