

The Makin'

Photograph by **Sheila Pree Bright**In 2019, I attended the Afropunk Festival in Atlanta, Georgia. The festival's theme was the "Carnival of Consciousness," and took place in the Mechanicsville community. As I entered the space, I moved through the sound of music and laughter. Young people were outwardly expressing themselves through their Afro-futuristic aesthetic, posing for photographers to capture their essence.

I mainly focus on photographing Black women, because for far too long, Black women have been especially ignored as they move about the world. For generations, the white power structure of America has been denigrating and dismissing Black women. I was captured by their aura, which seems to be in perfect harmony: with no judgment, complexity, or denial.

These young women at Afropunk were exploring their self-identity by celebrating Black joy in a safe space. In this philosophical movement, Black bodies are using their imagination and creativity in the midst of social unrest to build a future for Blackness.

PRESENTED BY



Sheila Pree Bright is an acclaimed international photographic artist who portrays large-scale works that combine a wide-range of knowledge of contemporary culture. She is known for her works, “#1960Now” and “Suburbia,” as well as *Young Americans*, and *Plastic Bodies*.

Bright is the author of “#1960Now: Photographs of Civil Rights Activists and Black Lives Matter Protests,” published by Chronicle Book. The work is a feature in the *New York Times*. She has also appeared in the 2016 feature-length documentary film “Election Day: Lens Across America.” Her series have been exhibited at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington,

D.C., the Art Gallery of Hamilton in Ontario, Canada, and the Leica Gallery in New York.

Bright is the recipient of several nominations and awards. Recently, she has been awarded the commission at the High Museum of Art for *Picturing the South*. Her work is included in numerous private and public collections, to name a few: the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the Microsoft Art Collection in Redmond, Washington, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Cleveland, Ohio, and the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia. Leica represents a union of craftsmanship, design and experience. It is a beautiful collision of art and engineering, and the future of form and functionality. Leica Camera, headquartered in Wetzlar, Germany with a second production site in Vila Nova de Famalicão, Portugal, is an internationally operating, premium-segment manufacturer of cameras and sport optics products. The legendary status of the Leica brand is founded on a long tradition of excellence in the supreme quality and performance of cameras and lenses, and the iconic images that artists and photojournalists everywhere captured with them. For more information about Leica visit <https://leicacamerausa.com/>, or follow the brand on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube at @leicacamerausa.

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