

Jessica Yupele

SELF-PORTRAITURE & FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

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ARTIST STATEMENT

I'm a self-taught multi-disciplinary artist who found my way behind the camera after many years spent in front of it as a commercial and fine art model, and muse. My photography practice centres womxn, with a keen interest in challenging societal norms - in particular stereotypes and enforced narratives around Black women and the Black female body.

My current project, *Things the Modelling Industry Has Taught Me*, is an ongoing self-portrait series examining the modelling industry as a system of bodily discipline and economic calibration.

Drawing on eighteen years of lived experience, I reconstruct moments of professional guidance to examine how commercial desirability is manufactured and optimised through conformity and internalised regulation. The work reframes the model not as muse, but as labouring body within a global image economy.

Above are three (of five) separate stories from *Things the Modelling Industry Has Taught Me*. This project has not yet debuted.

PRACTICE

- Digital & video
- Studio, natural & available light
- Limited-edition fine art prints

SERIES AVAILABLE

- *Things the Modelling Industry Has Taught Me* (2024-)
- SUM magazine - self-published online photography magazine centred on darker-skinned women of colour (2019-)
- *Les Plis et Les Failles* - self-portraits in nature (2018-)

REPRESENTATION

Currently unrepresented and available for gallery partnership, commission, and publication.