

AN INTERVIEW

"Images are the **perfect**
way to make information
accessible"

AGNESKENA

Visual artist

#She
DIDIT

One door opens the other

AGNESKENA struggles with describing her gift as "a talent", but started to take it more seriously when her pictures were chosen for the Black History Month exhibition in 2019 (Fotomuseum Antwerp). She remembers **feeling really proud, and excited to physically share her work with people**. Also, the context in which all of that happened was very important and inspiring, because through this event she met other talented black photographers and creatives. That evening she heard so many beautiful and encouraging words towards her work... That's when she realized that she wanted to create more and share her vision with people.

As an artist, most of the time she works around things that trigger her in a good or bad way. For example, her first project "Tinted Souls" was kind of an open letter to herself. Through these videos and photos she was **learning and simultaneously proving to herself how determined she was to grow** in her artistry. At the same time she was also shining a light on these talented and inspiring people that took her in their reality for a brief moment. "Is that your sister?" on the other hand, was more of a safe space for her community. She learned so much, and with all this baggage one door opens another.

***“I always say I’m simply a tool
and that the people I work with
are 95% of all the emotions
that an image embodies.”***

— AGNESKENA



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My roots are who I am, can't dissociate them.

AGNESKENA's aim was to create an opening for communication, a reason to think things through and a way to make information accessible. *"I always say that I'm a tool and that the people I work with are 95% of all the emotions that an image embodies."* With time she realised that she is naturally attracted to work with people who look like her and share the same values.

"I was going to say my roots are a part of who I am but that's not correct... My roots are who I am. You can't dissociate them. We need to feel each other in order to make things work and I guess that's something I grew up with without even realising it. I was never alone... I was always surrounded by family and friends and we shared that connection, that unbreakable bond. I guess that must be the strongest influence of my ethnicity in my work. I always seek for connection, mutual respect and a caring atmosphere."

*Sometimes it feels like standing in front of a mirror. **Sometimes that mirror is broken but the reflection of it when the sun shines is just so perfect and everything starts to make sense.*** She is defining herself through her art and she really hopes that this is only the beginning.

A person with short, curly hair, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, is sitting on a patterned blanket in a field of tall, green grass. The person is seen from behind, looking out over the field towards a line of trees in the distance under a bright, slightly cloudy sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

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