

# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NEW YORK UNDERGROUND

CELEBRATING NYC'S FINEST ACROSS 26 PAGES

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STYLING EMMA WYMAN

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PHOTOGRAPHY DANIEL WEISS STYLING EMMA WYMAN



Richard wears all clothes his own

## RICHARD HELL, MUSICIAN

TAVI GEVINSON ASKS: “You once said, ‘If you think clearly, you’ll write clearly.’ What do you do to think clearly? Do you have to get there in any way or is it more like, once you’re writing, you’re there?”

RH: “I’ll pretentiously try to defend my pretentious statement. Nabokov said a writer should have the precision of a poet and the imagination of the scientist. It’s possible to have the logic of a scientist and a poet’s ability to see past cliché and convention – together, these lead to ways of expressing experience that make it new and surprising. Then you have to do a whole lot of reading and writing in pursuit of that!”

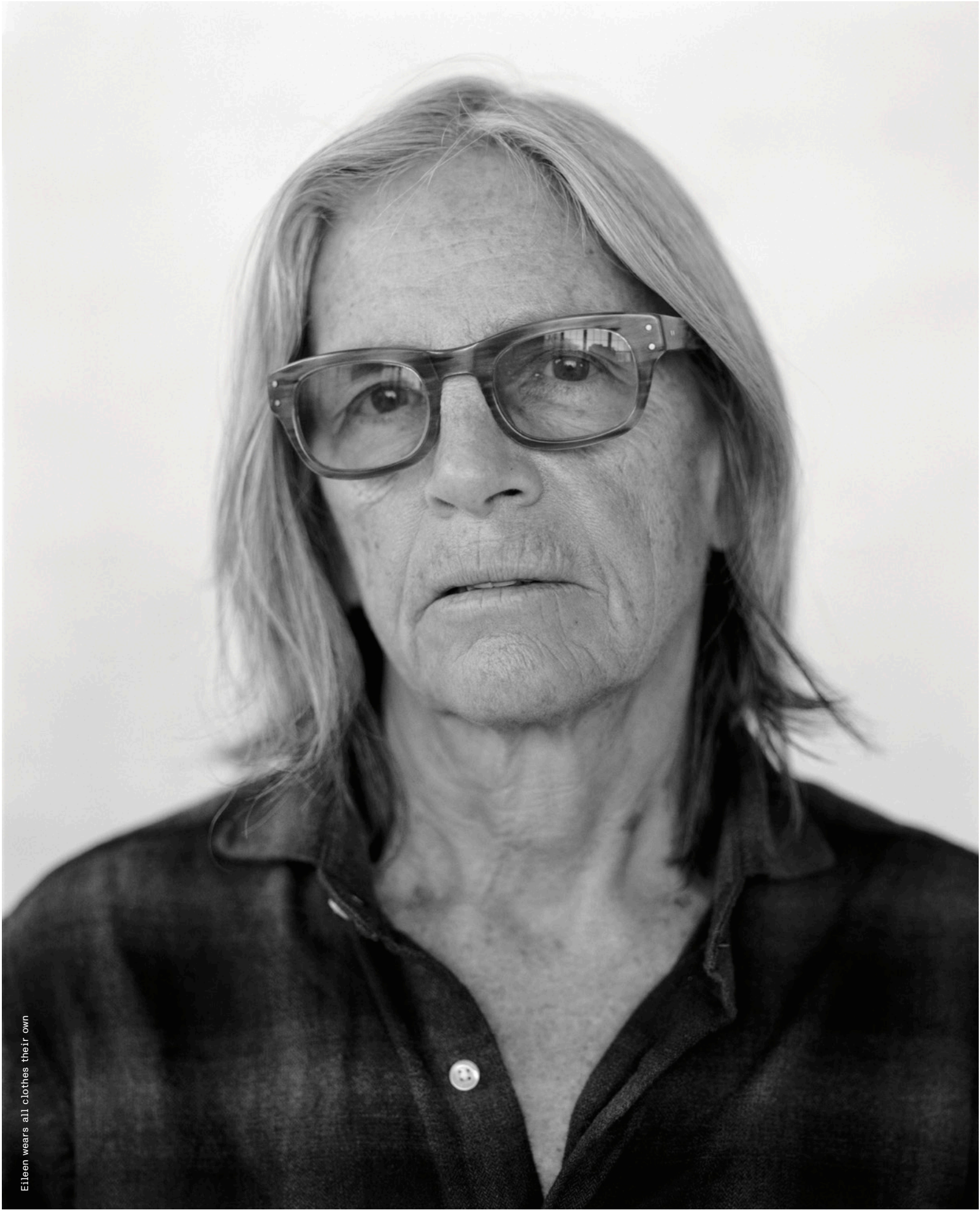




Amy Rose wears  
spandex bodysuit  
*Mugler*, cotton  
flared trousers  
*Ports 1961*, belt  
*Costume Studio*,  
leather heels  
*Bottega Veneta*

AMY ROSE SPIEGEL, WRITER

“If I could go back to any time in New York’s history, it would be the late 90s. You could meet at the Pink Pony or the library or the Met or Kim’s Video. The drag looked great. The rap was good; The Magnetic Fields were good; Rudy Giuliani (the city’s mayor until 2001) was bad, but the people who pushed hard against him were good.”



Eileen wears all clothes their own

EILEEN MYLES, POET

“My favourite NY myth is that you missed it. That it was really good ten years ago. I got that in the 70s, about the 60s. People are always telling new people that they missed the past, the *really* good New York. I like it here. Like a dream, New York is always fleeing and getting refilled.”





Jimmy wears all clothes his own

### JIMMY WEBB, OWNER OF I NEED MORE FASHION STORE

“I ran away from a little town called Wynantskill to New York in 1975. I arrived with my clothes in a stolen pillowcase and (stayed in) a hotel room. I didn’t have a penny in my pocket and it was fabulous.”



Natasha wears all clothes Marc Jacobs, leather square-toe boots Balenciaga

### NATASHA STAGG, WRITER

“I still believe in all the old urban myths about NYC. It’s sick, but I love hearing about the New York club kids that are still wandering around after Michael Alig murdered Angel Melendez. That whole story and how it became so romanticised, with *Party Monster*. It’s the most grotesque story, and Michael Alig is still around. I’ve seen him, he comes to parties.”





Bernadette wears all clothes her own

**BERNADETTE VAN HUY, ARTIST**

NATASHA STAGG ASKS: “Your novel *Reena Spaulings* made me want to write a book and move to New York City. Did you have a favourite book when you were making work with Bernadette Corporation?”

BVH: “In the early days, (William Gibson’s) *Neuromancer* – or, later, *Idoru* – was our sort of mascot book, an example of potential dystopic energy and noise. I used to make a fake tattoo on models’ faces sometimes, ‘LY’. It stood for Lupus Yonderboy, leader of the Panther Moderns in *Neuromancer*.”



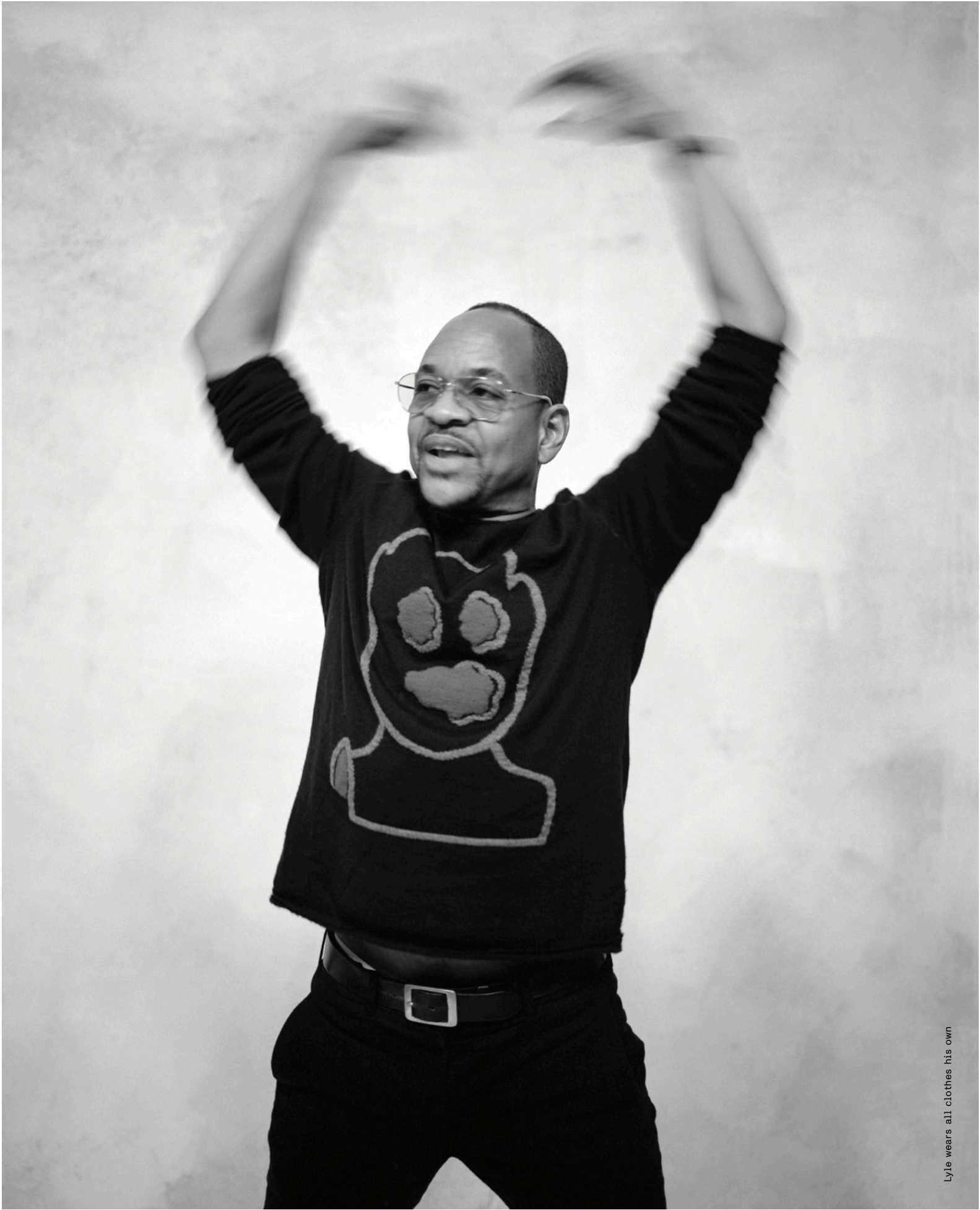
Linda wears leather shirt Bottega Veneta, watch her own

**LINDA YABLONSKY, WRITER**

BERNADETTE VAN HUY ASKS: “Your first book, *The Story of Junk*, came out more than 20 years ago. What was it like, emotionally, writing that book?”

LY: “I wrote *The Story of Junk* with a driving sense of purpose. I wanted to memorialise (friends) who didn’t survive the 80s and could not tell their own stories. At times, I had to stop work to cry, but mostly I felt very happy to be alive and writing. I didn’t know why I was still around, but I didn’t want the departed to be forgotten.”





Lyle wears all clothes his own

**LYLE ASHTON HARRIS, ARTIST**

“In 1985 I was out at (the club) Area with my cousin Alex and we met Basquiat. Who could have predicted that, years later, I would be in an exhibition celebrating Basquiat’s incredibly important work on the death of (graffiti artist) Michael Stewart at the Guggenheim? Our paths crossed more than once while he was living, and years later.”



Norma wears all clothes her own

**NORMA KAMALI, DESIGNER**

“My favourite NY meal is a chocolate egg cream, with no eggs! I make it with oat milk. But here goes the recipe: add one tablespoon of melted chocolate into ¼ glass of iced milk. Take a spoon and stir rapidly. As you are doing this, add some seltzer water and this will create a thick, creamy foam.”





THIS PAGE: Precious wears cotton shirt dress *Fenty*, all jewellery her own.  
OPPOSITE PAGE: Tavi wears nappa leather jacket and skirt *Prada*, cotton shirt, socks and heels  
*Symonds Pearmain*

# PRECIOUS OKOYOMON, ARTIST, AND RAINBOW, HER DOG

EILEEN MYLES ASKS: “What do you want?”

PO: “My answer is everything and nothing. Transformation through harmony with the Earth. Gratitude with daily existence as self-fragilisation, falling into the incarnate incompleteness.”



Hair *Dylan Chavles* at *Art Department* using *Oribe*, make-up *Emi Kaneko* at *Bryant Artists* using *Chanel Beauty*, photography assistant *Pierre Crosby*, styling assistant *Marcus Cuffie*, hair assistant *Marilyn Lizardo*, make-up assistants *Rose Grace*, *Mical Klip*

# TAVI GEVINSON, PERFORMER

NORMA KAMALI ASKS: “The beauty of your generation is there are no walls or limitations and many talented creatives redefining purpose at a very young age. How would you define your own purpose?”

TG: “My astrologer said my purpose is to ‘introduce new forms of communication’. Since I paid her so much money, I’ve decided she is right. Doing *Rookie* helped my writing and thinking voice become one – and to see that there is no one ‘real’ voice. I think my purpose is to write things that make writing seem less precious and more possible.”