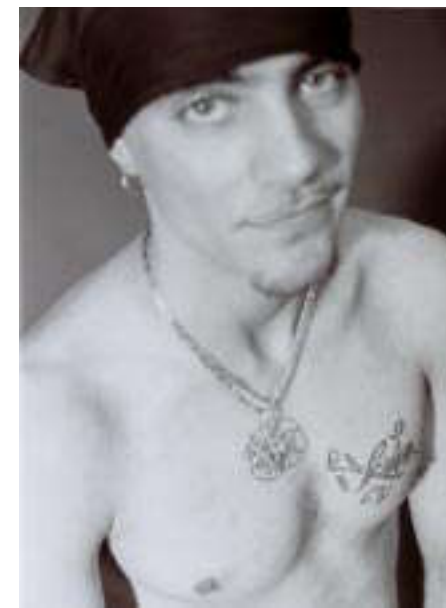


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Edited by Graham Brown-Martin



Brendan



Ella and Liz



Ascribe:

UK photographer, Jennie Baptiste on street patrol. text ross patrick photography jennie baptiste

A RESIDENT OF WOOD GREEN, NORTH LONDON, via St. Lucian parents, Jennie Baptiste has shot for the likes of designer Wale Adeyemi, Lauryn Hill's "Miseducation" tour, and numerous record companies. Her work will be featured in the forthcoming Maharishi and Nike books. Describing herself as a West London girl, she discovered photography at school: "There was this dark room at school that was going empty, so me and my friends gave it a try. I got more and more into it and my other subjects suffered—it's working out now though!"

And her tattoo interest? "Well, I recognised that in the early '90s tattoos had become more

associated with fashion than soccer hooligans, especially by young black adults influenced by hip hop. I've also shot a lot of hip hop artists, who have tattoos which has also fed my interest". People now, Jennie observes, are choosing tattoos inspired by hip hop, even people like football star David Beckham. "He's open about how he's been influenced by hip hop—his crucifixion tattoo came straight from Tupac's 'Makaveli'."

"The people I shot were specially chosen for the tattoos—I wanted to get an array of both images and tattoos. Ella and Liz, the two girls holding hands, are singers. Brendan, the guy with a scarf

on his head, has a tattoo on his chest—that's his tag which he writes as Kayism." The work is part of her ongoing project "Ascribe"—as in the ascription of ink on body—which she hopes to exhibit soon. Of the future she says, "I'd like to take my portrait work to places like New York and show them our side of the culture in a way they haven't seen before."

Urban culture is always refreshing but it's really about how you capture it, that's my love! Apart from singing at home with her girlfriends, of course. ■