



United we prevail
divided we fail









I sculpt what I would have liked to have seen in my youth. The beauty of male love. His strength, his tenderness. Couples of young men, a tender gesture, the sweetness and charm of a face, a gesture of love - or sometimes more teasing.

And also the expression of desire through the body: the neck line, the power of a muscular back, a chiseled torso. Eroticism sometimes suggested. This masculine tenderness has been expressed very well by the artist Steve Walker.

I try to express this sensuality in 3 dimensions, with a focus on couples. My sculptures are made of stone, clay and bronze, and born of a memory, a pose seen, a sketch. Sometimes I invoke mythology, as with Icarus, or a more abstract or symbolic thought, as the hand with a cube. My intention is to suggest or recall an emotion, a lived moment. And to bring some beauty in this world.

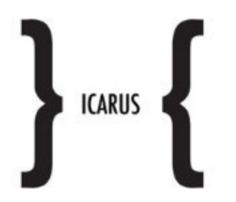






ERIC





THINKING





SOUVENIR

Walking in Italy and Greece as a teenager, in the middle of these beautiful muscular or tender young men, sculpted in white marble, at a time I was not 'out' yet, provoked a mix of feelings: admiration of the bodies, the perfection, the beauty, the knowledge. Willingness to touch, caress, thoughts to have been the model, or maybe the sculptor.

I did not know I would sculpt a lot some decades later...

Having been a boy scout, I was surrounded at that time by playful young men, and appreciated the life outdoor, the nature, the rivers, camping under the stars & the moon.

My imagination deriving from the books depicting that scout life and from some of the boys around me, was certainly wilder than the reality. The sculpture 'Eric' in terra cotta, and my black alabaster stone entitled 'Souvenir', reflect that time. Maybe it will evoke something for you.

In my late teens, and then, as a young adult, in the end of the eighties/early nineties, working in the gay human rights field, I was confronted to the aids crisis, the battles for legal rights to end discriminations in so many countries including Europe, the courage of activists I met and that have been killed later on for fighting for these same rights. My own trajectoire of coming out left some scars. The bronze sculpture 'Thinking' relates to that. Expressing both some inner strength, and decisions, actions to take after some thoughts process.

Life circumstances made me try several paths, personnally and professionnally, and the light was sometimes opposed to some darkness, hopes and ideals confronted with brutal reality. Wings and sunlight with precipices. My blue alabaster stone sculpture 'Icarus' is linked with some of these experiences. A beautiful and rare stone.

Writing this, I just realized that the 4 sculptures mentioned above are 'singles', or 'one man'. This brings me to the next chapter.





TENDERNESS





INTIMACY I



INTIMACY II



INTIMACY III

As indeed I met the love of my life, J.L., 24 years ago. And this wonderful relationship is maybe one of the reason I want to express, display, and sculpt male tenderness, male intimacy, couples in love, etc.

And the other reason is that I always felt there is a lack of male couples in sculptures today. Of course, you have the famous mythology and history couples, Adrian and Antinous, David and Jonathan, and some others. But for whatever reasons, it is really rare to see male couples in sculpture. Hence, my willingness to sculpt them, and focus on male tenderness, or what another artist (John Waiblinger) is calling 'Tender Masculinities'.

I started with a serie of 3 bronze, my 'Intimacy' serie. All laying on a bed.

INTIMACY I is a young couple laying, certainly influenced by my classical studies and visits in Italy, someone called it my MichelAngelo style. One of the original limited edition is in New York today.

INTIMACY II express the passion between a young adult and another one slightly older who admires his beauty and youth.

INTIMACY III shows close tenderness and love of 2 young men sleeping, spooning, next to each other. One of this bronze original numbered edition is in Bordeaux now, framed in a beautiful 'American Box' in a contemporary house.

Then I wanted to see a loving standing couple, somewhat larger than the previous couples. So I sculpted this couple, casted in bronze as well, but standing, fully demonstrating tenderness, hence it is his name, Tenderness. The head of the young man at the back is slightly touching the neck and shoulder of his lover. Holding each other. The one in front is closing his eyes, appreciating the moment. A great intimacy and closeness. One original numbered sculpture of this bronze is in Paris.



FUTURE PROJECTS

For the near future coming projects, I did some more couples studies in clay. I will select 2 of them, that I will re-create this year somewhat larger, to be then casted in bronze at the Art Foundry. And my current stone project is a large white alabaster.

SCULPTING - STUDIO - MAIN GOAL

CLAY is a very sensual way to sculpt. Your wet hands can design a muscle, a cheek, the wood tools can create more direct lines, you have the power to move a gesture, just time works against you as the sculpture needs to be kept humid enough to work.

STONE sculpting is demanding, stressful, exciting, it requires strength and patience to reveal the hidden beauty in the stone. You know that if you do not work one day, nothing will change! The initial idea has maturated during months in your head, until you feel the craving need to start, the male sculpture wants to be liberated from the stone around it, and you take your hammer and chisel. A fascinating travel, within yourself and to be shared.

Time does not exist when I sculpt... I enter my studio, like in another space, almost sacred, a ritual of thinking, observing, listening, questioning myself, questioning the stone, chiselling, doubting, daring, with music sometimes. Or with silence too. I am far.

I wish my sculptures can resonate with some people, recall emotions and souvenirs, feelings, experiences, hopes, dreams, and affirm MALE LOVE, GAY LOVE 'IS JUST A QUESTION OF LOVE'.



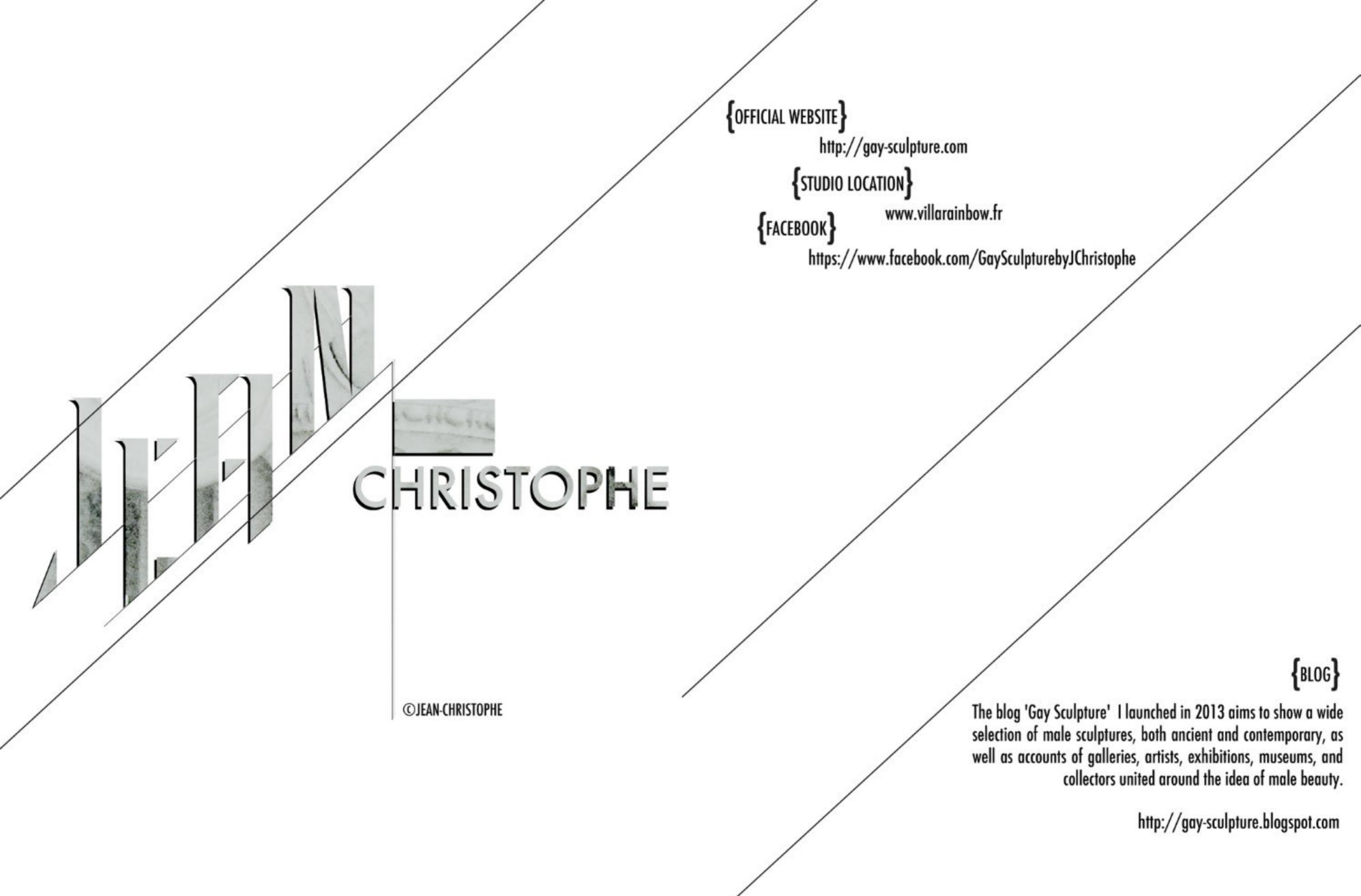
My family includes a few artists, and my paternal grandfather was close to committed and 'open minded' writers and artists. I had a silent admiration for these and other artists, the way they lived their lives, the solitude and quietness of their research, their work, observed during studio visits and exhibitions.

As a young gay man, pursuing my classical studies, and travelling to Italy, Greece and Egypt, I developed a keen appreciation for the male beauty of the marble and bronze statues of the ancient masters. I also love the sober lines of Henry Moore and George Minne. But I have always felt strongly the absence of gay couples in sculpture.

In recent years, I worked in the nonprofit field of LGBT rights, one of the most exciting pursuits of my life.

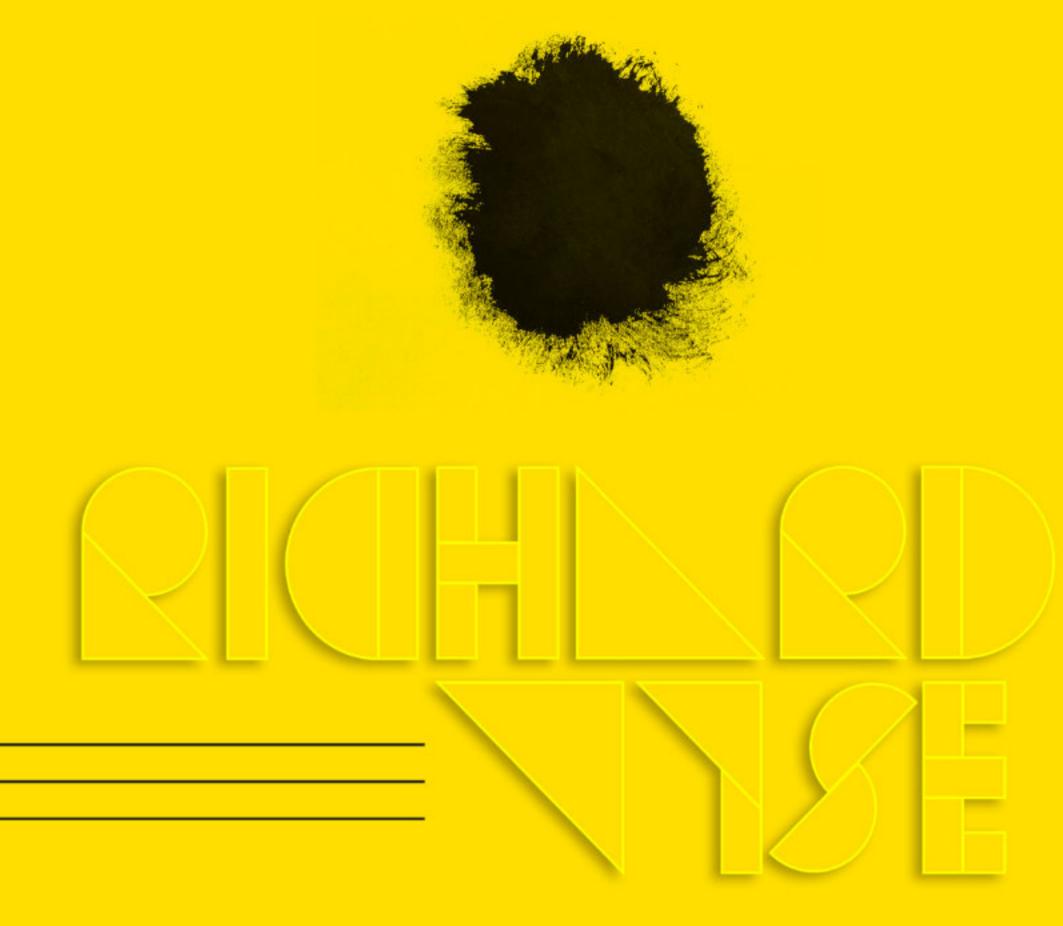
Today, I am able to divide my time between managing a tropical paradise of an inn created with my partner, and my sculpture studio a few steps away. In beautiful St Martin, it is natural that my boys and couples in stone, bronze and clay will arise from there!

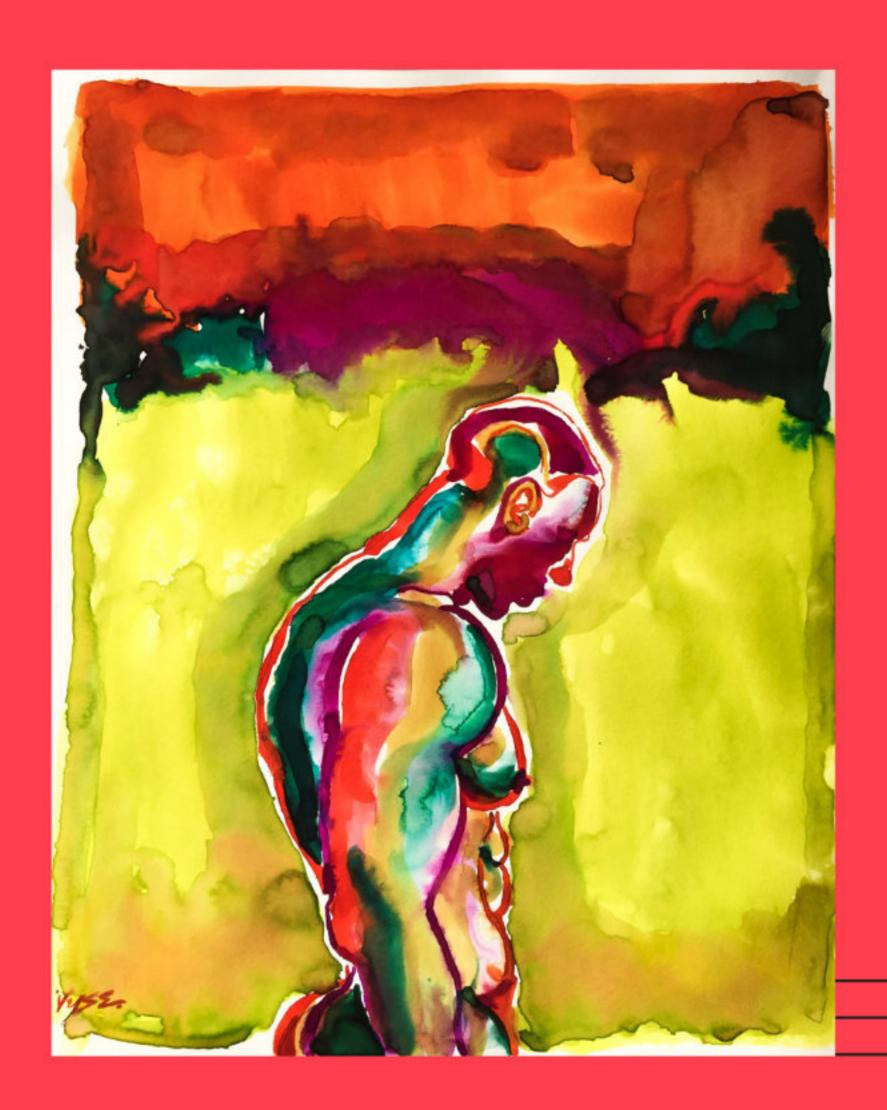
Originally self-taught, I had the chance to meet, more than 10 years ago, the great artist Patrick Poivre de la Freta, who re-awakened in me this passion, which had been asleep since I was a teenager. He encouraged me and followed my work for several years, until his sudden death. Since then, my mind is on my sculptures every day, and my hands are on the stone, the bronze, the clay every moment I get. I also have had the good fortune to take master classes with Philippe Faraut (USA) for clay portraits, with Sonja Mosick (Germany) and Brune Somogyi (Paris) for stone carving.





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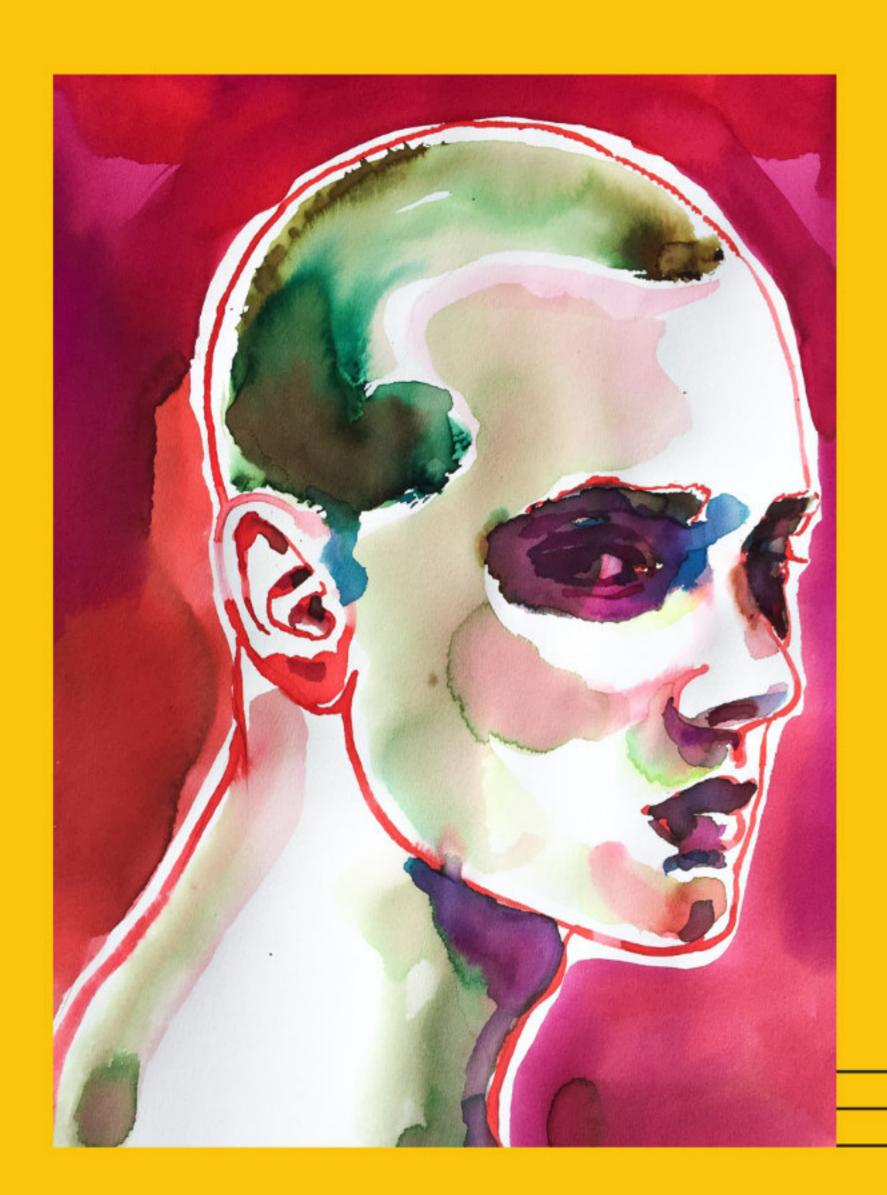






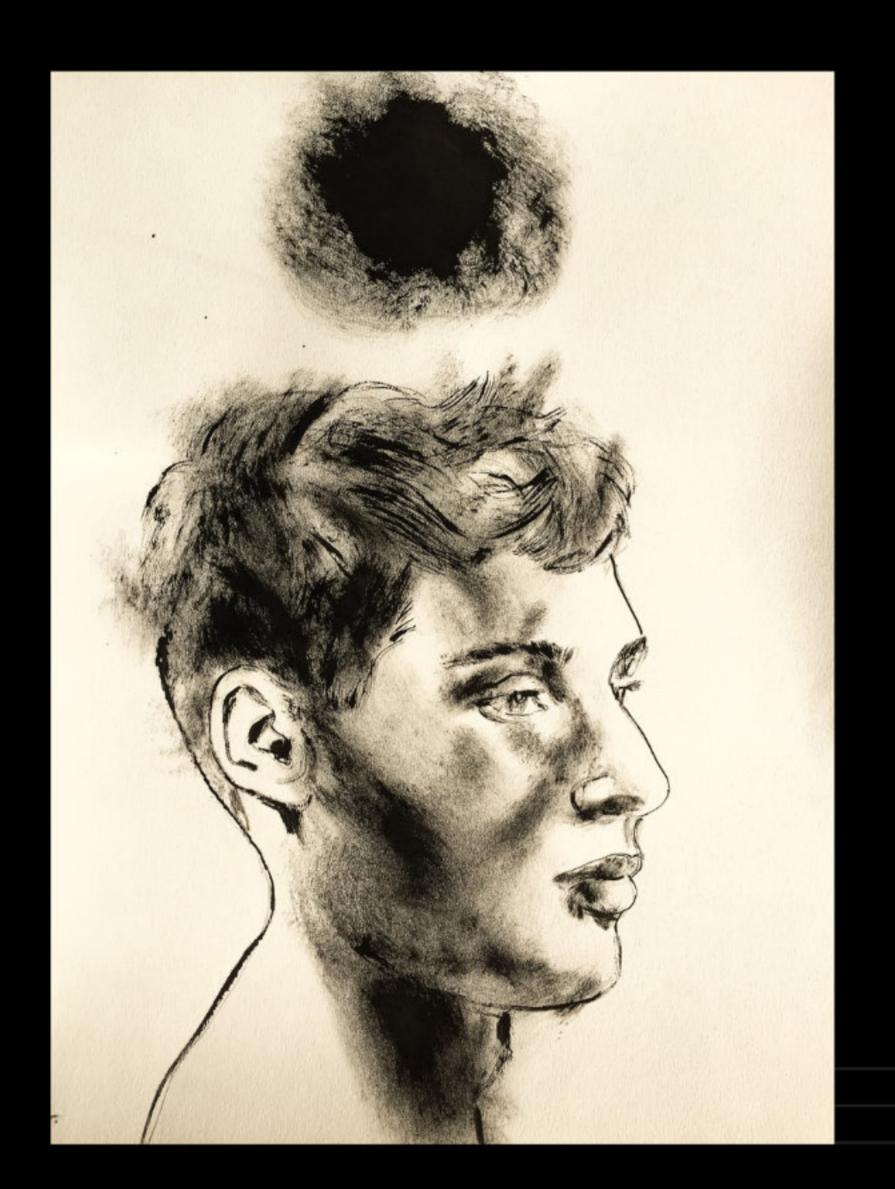
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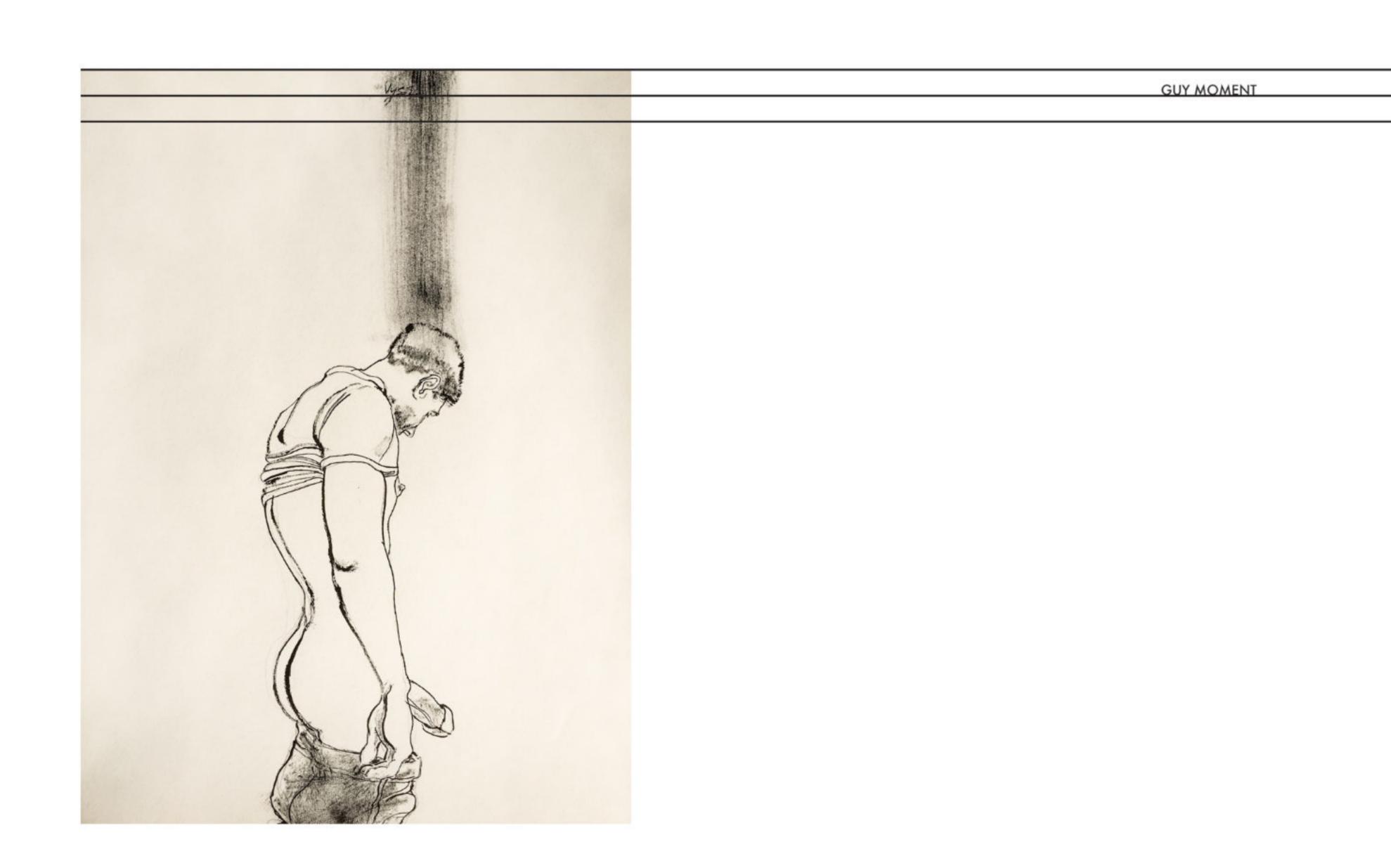


















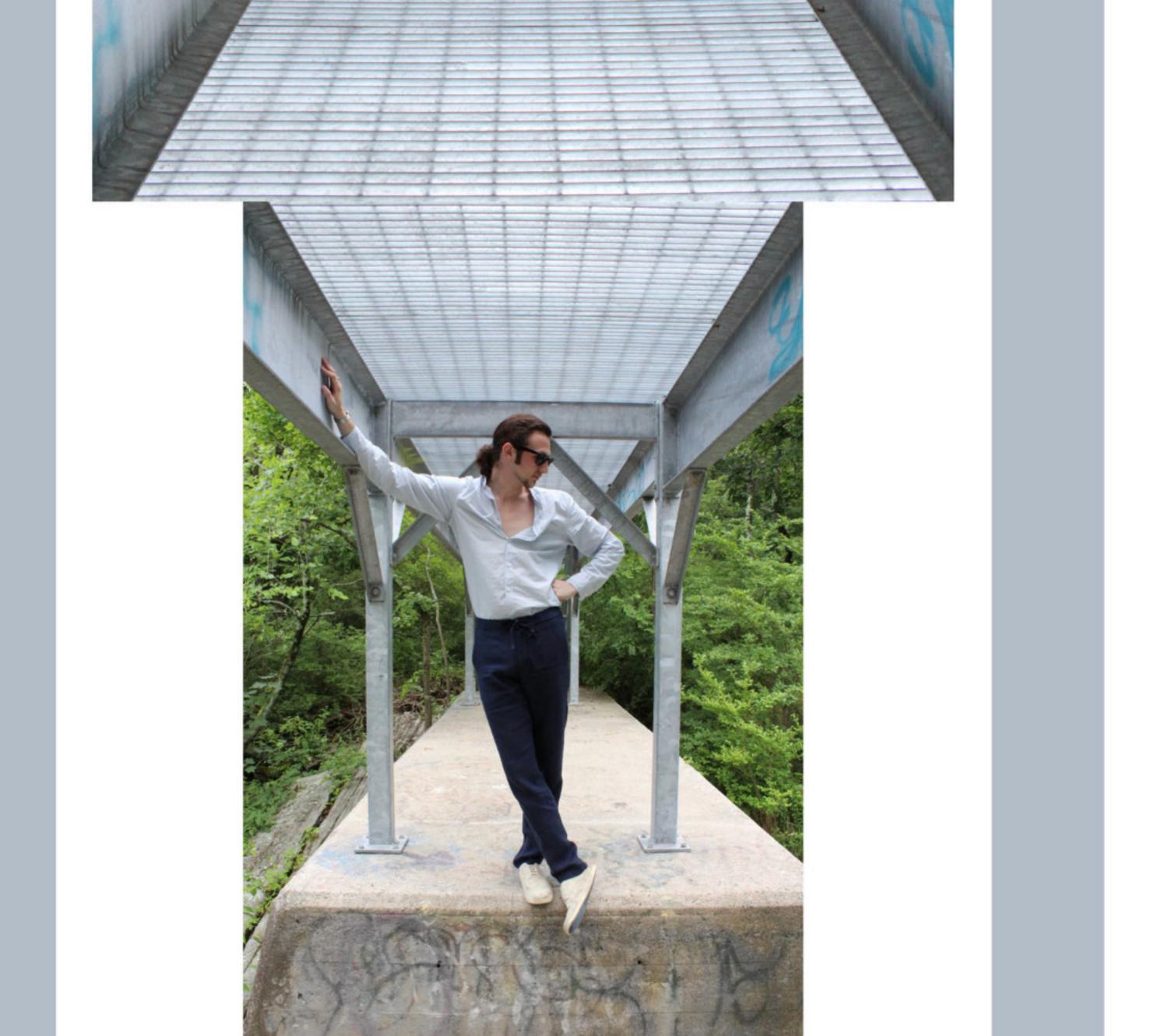
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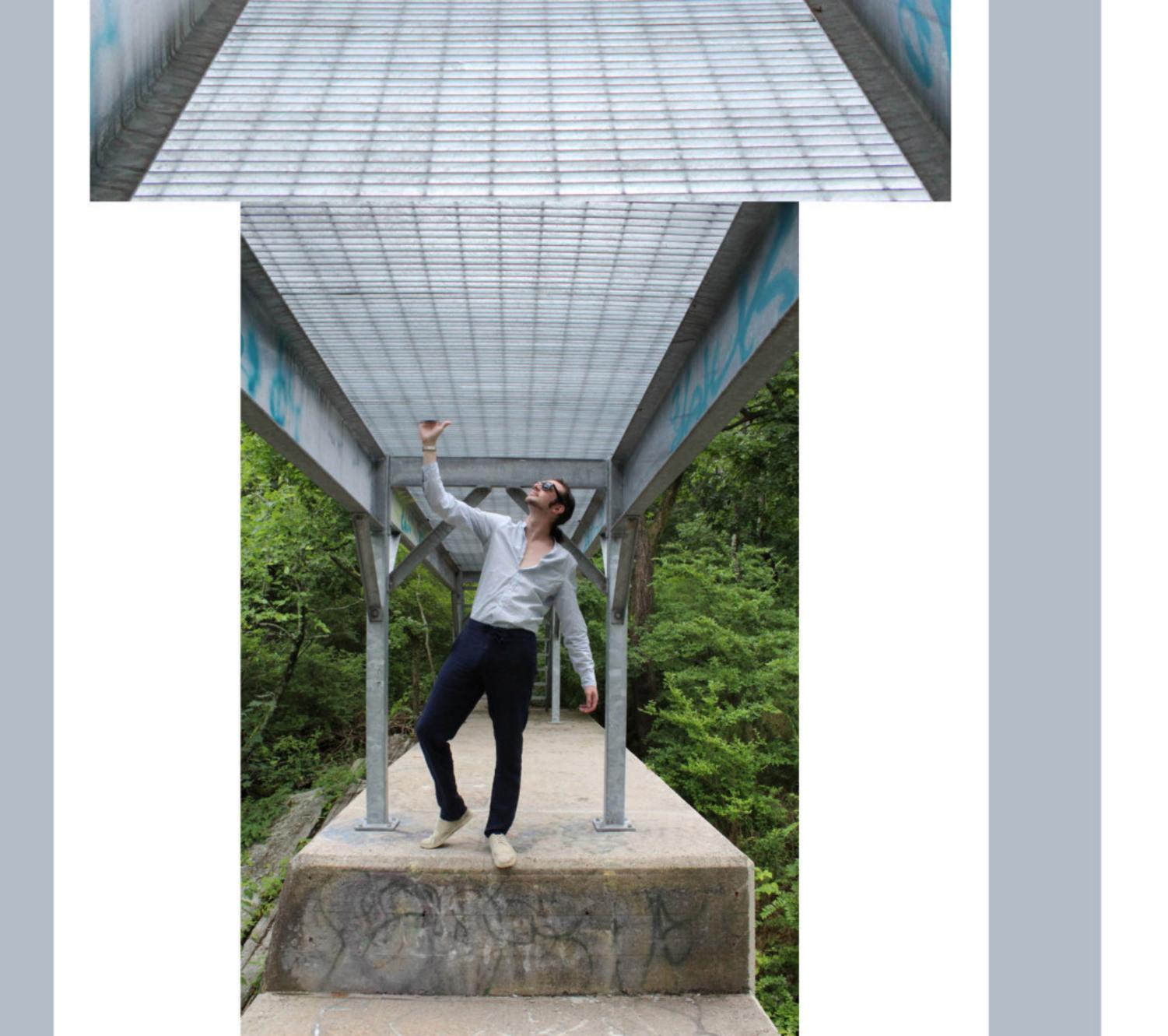


















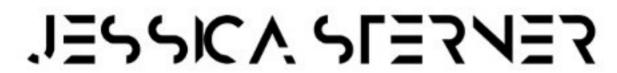




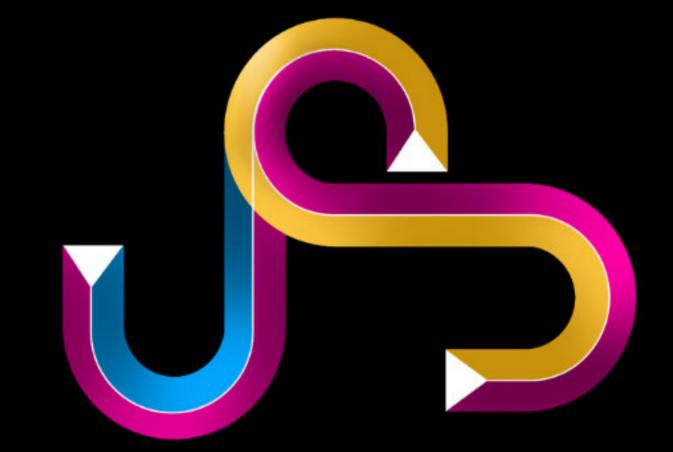








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