

Beyond Beauty: the ideal form - Manifesto

2020

By Lewis Derogene

“The most disrespected person in America is the Black woman” - Malcolm X.

Black women are so undervalued, so underappreciated, and so misunderstood.
We're always the caretaker, the caregiver, and get nothing in return.
We suffer so much and not just for ourselves, but for others.
We're never taken seriously and so that adds on to our mountain of pain.

We're labeled loud, angry, rude, ghetto, masculine without anyone seeing or hearing our story.

We're loud because us speaking quietly won't get us heard.
We're angry because we are fed up with being placed last and stepped on.
We're rude because we don't get respect so there's no reason to be nice to someone who looks down on us.
We're not ghetto, we're innovative and just because it's a creative inexpensive idea that we've cultivated that functions properly does not make it less than.
We are feminine, we are masculine, we are both, we are neither and that's none of your business.

We are so much more than the labels that people give.

We deserve more, we deserve better.

For all the sacrifices that Black women do, we deserve it all.
All Black women deserve it all; all the good and all the positive, enough with the bad and enough with the ugly.

We are beyond beauty, we are beyond the ideal form.
We are *the* manifestation of God, so call us by our names.