

BOSS MODELS

CAPE TOWN



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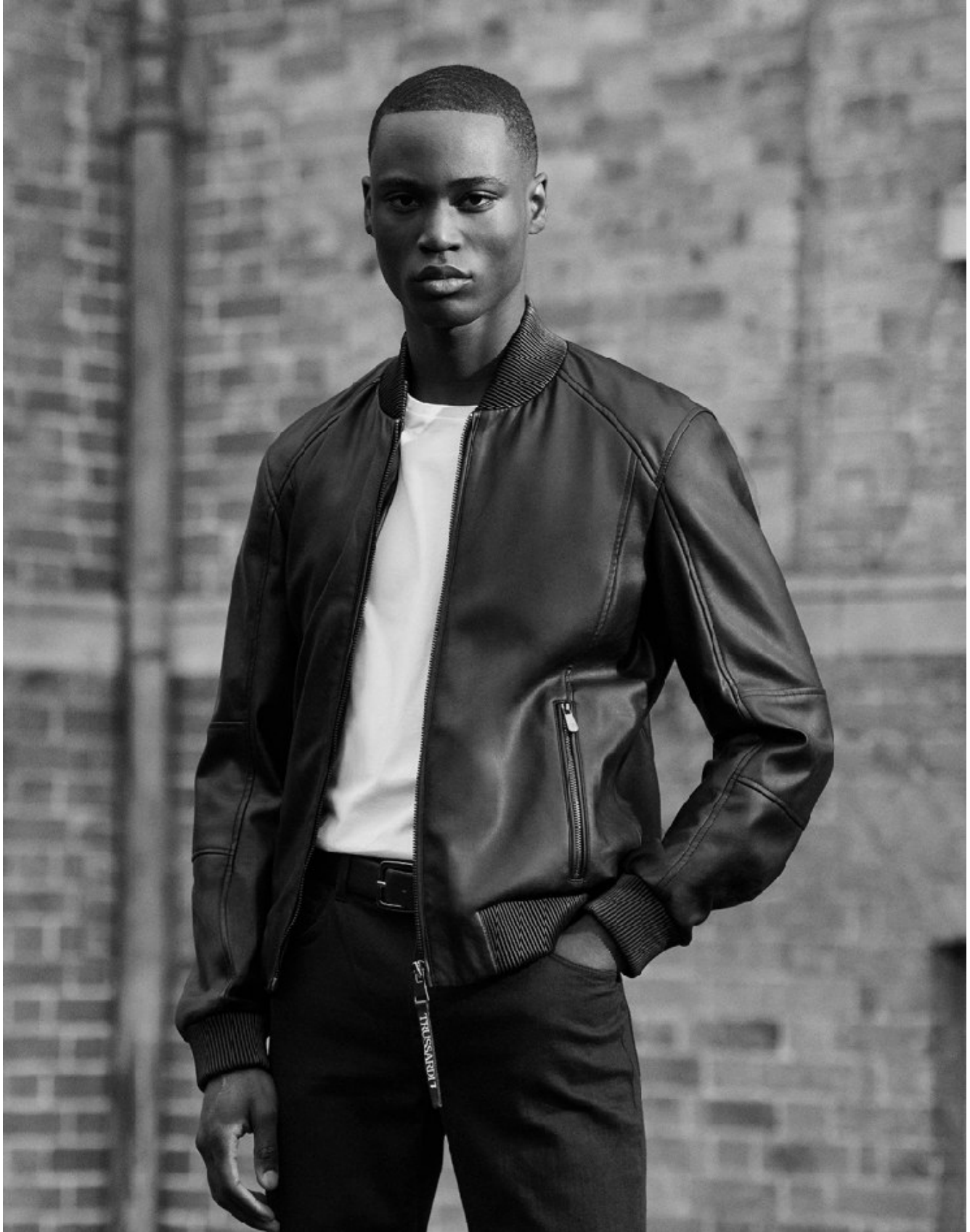


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the guy puts it on he feels totally comfortable and can move in a really easy way."

It's an oft-repeated fact that Barrett's from a family of tailors stretching back four generations; a heritage echoed not only in the razor-sharp design but also in his focus on the finer points of construction and the ingredients, above all else, of his client's comfort. That craftsmanship, nevertheless, is an approach that's clearly resonated. For despite his cautious attitude, Barrett continues his education on fashion, particularly in knit, where the mastery of the knit structure, says the Cape Town, 35-year-old, "kind of brings in the universe, makes Barrett's attitude to perfection is reinforced and enriched. It's a gradual growth, but it's a more realistic growth." He explains:

"I think in knit, with its two-sided fashion, you're concerned with more structure and Barrett's philosophy of knit has evolved. Knitwear is now becoming increasingly independent of outside context... something more practically oriented at giving high-fashion pieces."

Barrett's obsession to his new lifestyle – and his style space and, in turn, on sartorial sense – is something of a mission, then. A growing 1990s, which he compares with people and places like a real interplay of shadow and light, the business is infused with the same intelligent, pragmatic modernism as Barrett's designs: "It's a huge achievement for me," he agrees. But has this landmark moment, the enshrinement of all his hard work in impermeably stylish rock, given Barrett cause for thinking retrospectively, for indulging in a little mid-career nostalgia?

"I do look back at myself all the time," he admits, before emphasising, "It's not because I'm always contemplating what I've done, but quite the contrary. I do it because I want to improve on what I did. I want to look back on what I've done and see if I can make it better... This is because I'm a perfectionist. And looking back is, to me, super interesting and super inspiring because I'm constantly wanting to make things perfect."

It's that Sisyphean insistence on perfection that means, whether it's his recently launched sportswear line, Blackbarrett, or his decision to finally tackle florals head on for SS19 (a tall order for a man of his minimalist temperaments), Barrett's work is never really done. After all, what

he has in mind is never simply a good collection of clothes to sell each season but, instead, nothing less than the contemporary male wardrobe in its ideal form. That means a constant struggle not just to work on the pieces he hasn't yet tackled – "I've got to find another area that I don't work on usually to try and put it into my DNA" – but to reappraise and reevaluate those he already has. A garment that ten years ago embodied his ethos, to "explore the realms of menswear and push those boundaries but still stay within them," might fall short today, as menswear's boundaries shift, so too must Barrett's.

For most designers, that sense of circularity would make Barrett's methodology tempting: an unending quest to perfect that which can never be truly perfected. Not for long, anyhow. But to the man himself, that process is, perversely, what satisfaction feels like. "That is my total pleasure and I am my own biggest critic. And that's what drives me on in life," he chuckles, before adding, "though it's not the best thing for my partner, I must say!" Never mind. There's always a price to perfection.

All-clothing
MIL BARRETT
Blackbarrett

Erasmus
Blackbarrett
Sole Creative Artists
with SACHA JORDAN and
CHRISTIE LAMER

Model
Edvard
A film project of
Blackbarrett
Management

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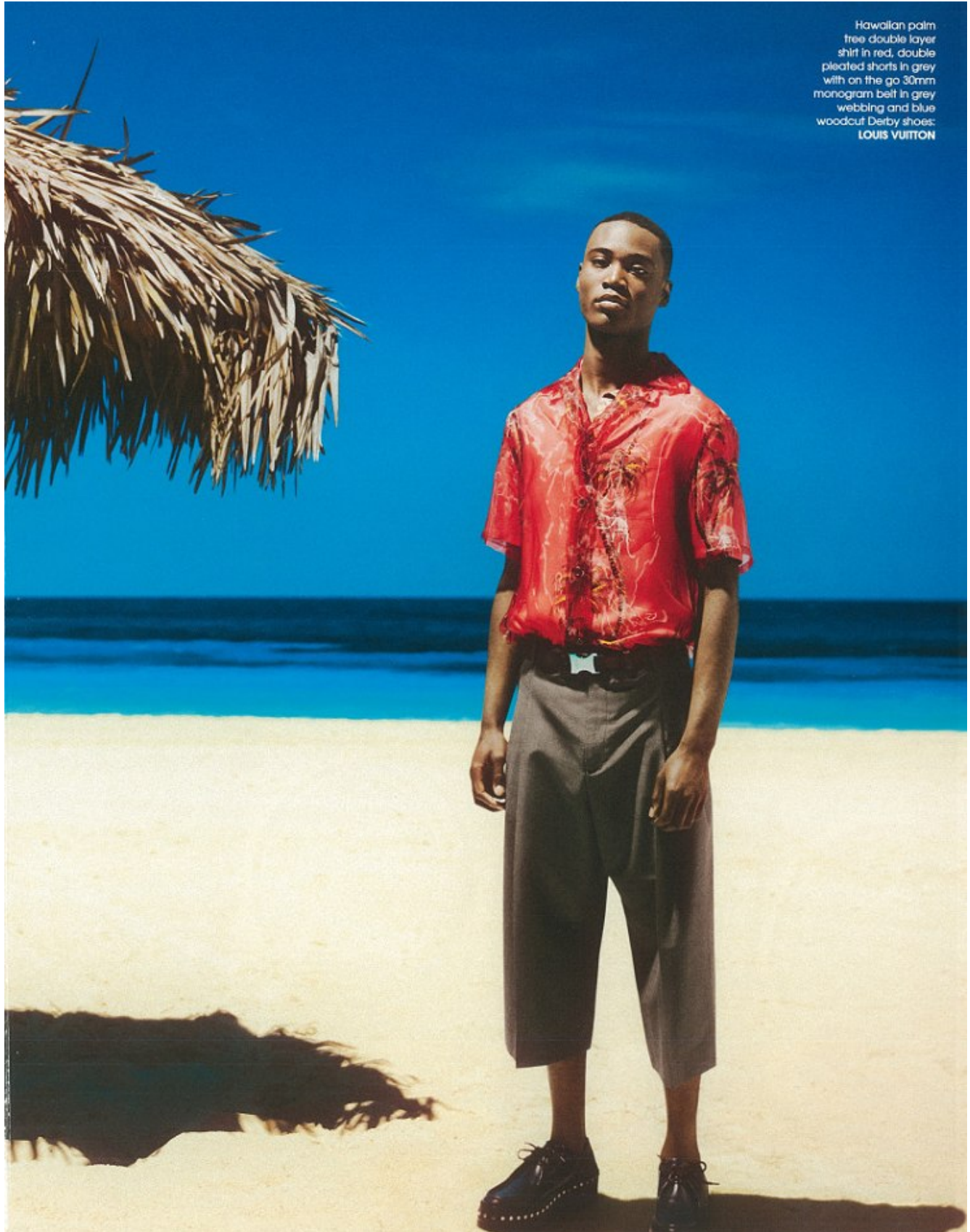


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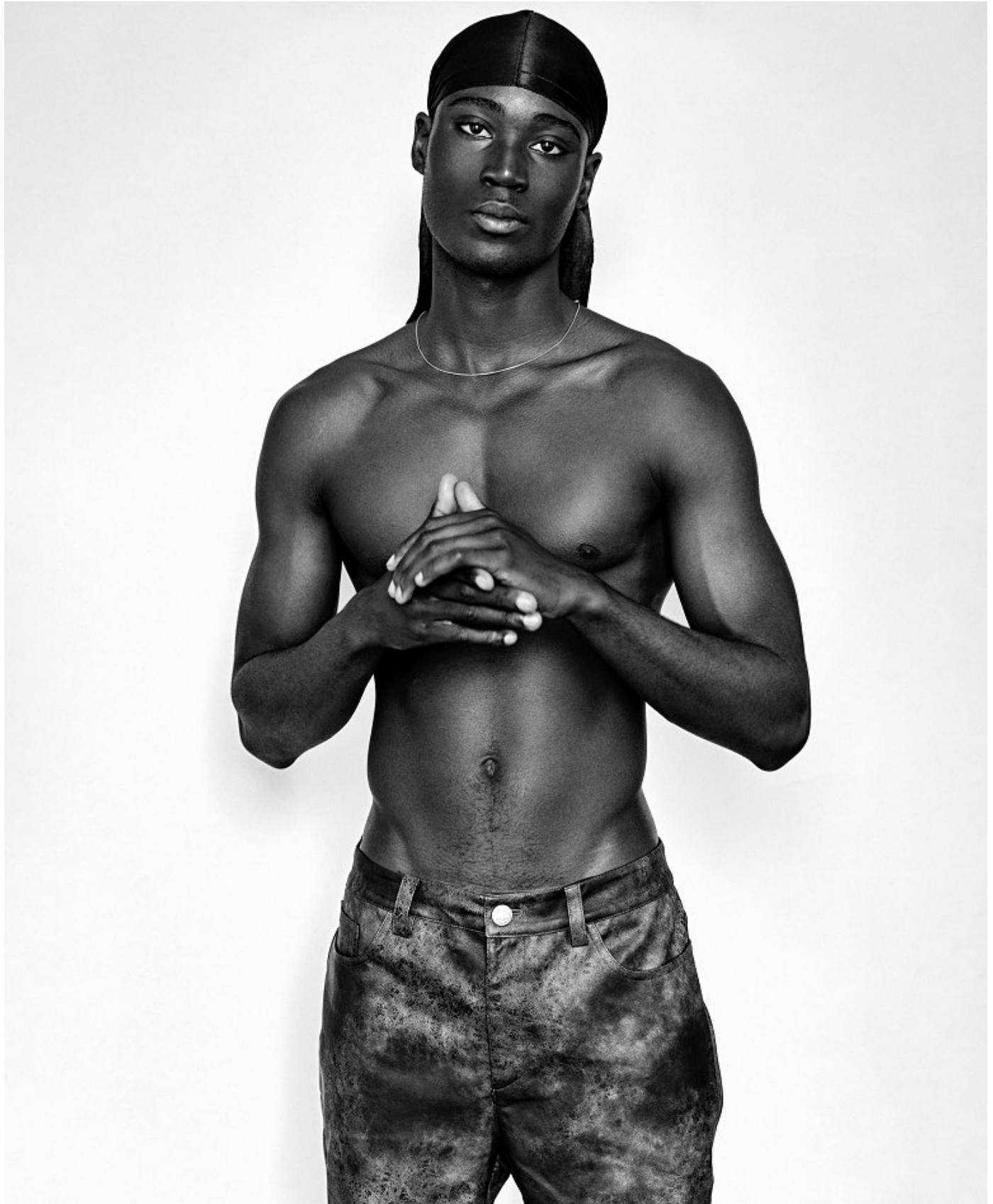
Hawaiian palm
tree double layer
shirt in red, double
pleated shorts in grey
with on the go 30mm
monogram belt in grey
webbing and blue
woodcut Derby shoes:
LOUIS VUITTON

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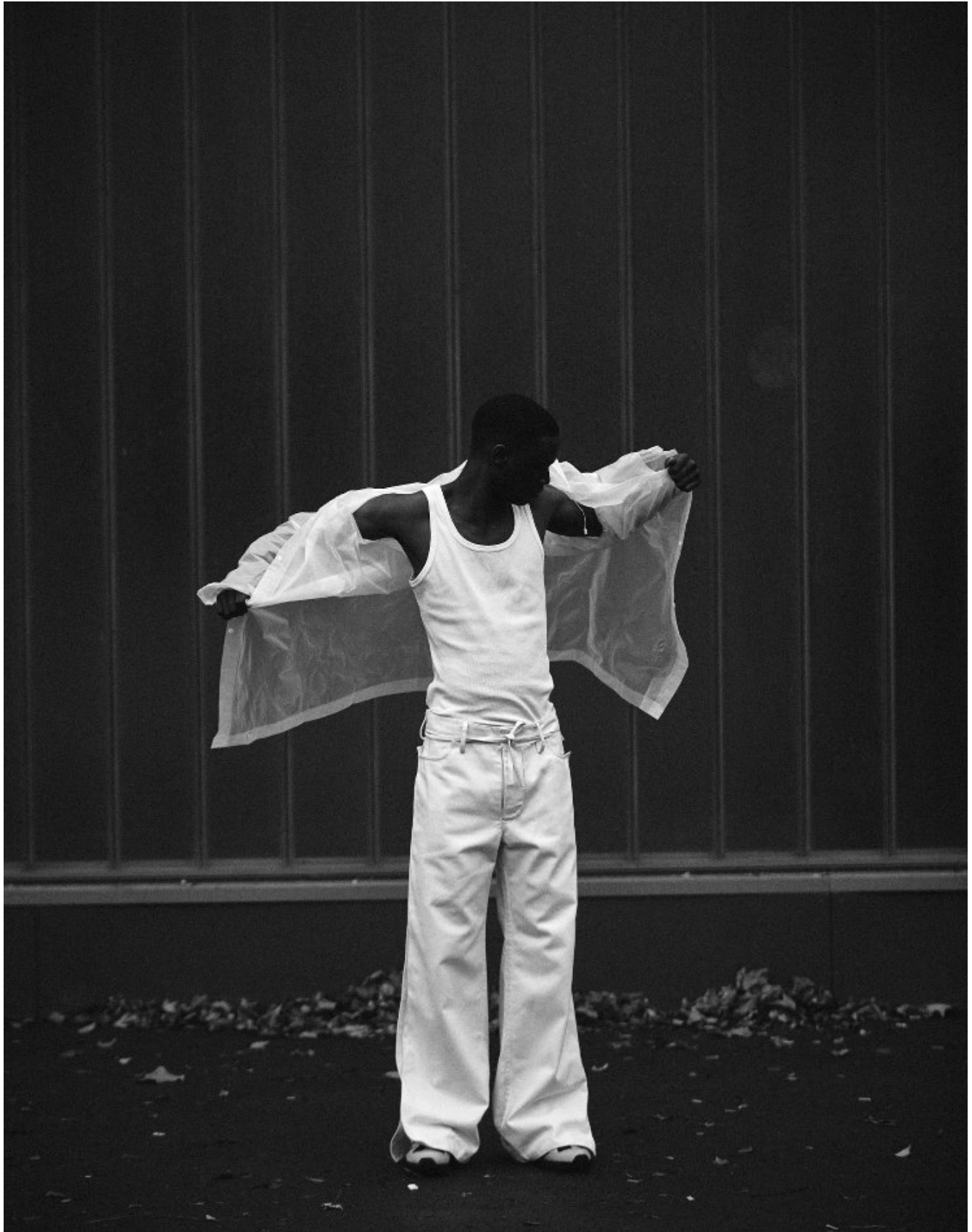


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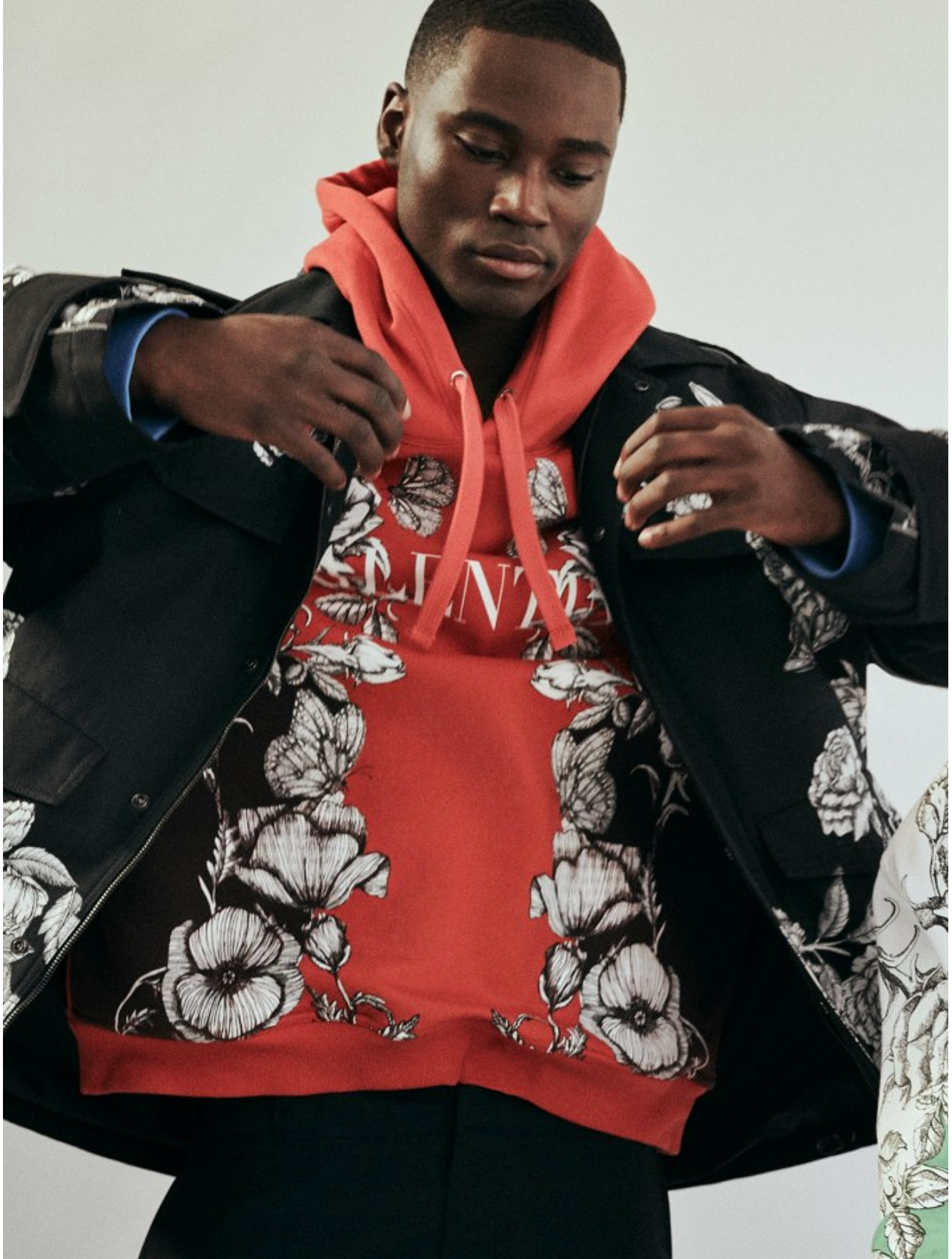


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UPGRADE your winter wardrobe

Beat the cold with these contemporary looks from luxury Italian outerwear brand Colmar

Photographs by Pelle Crépin

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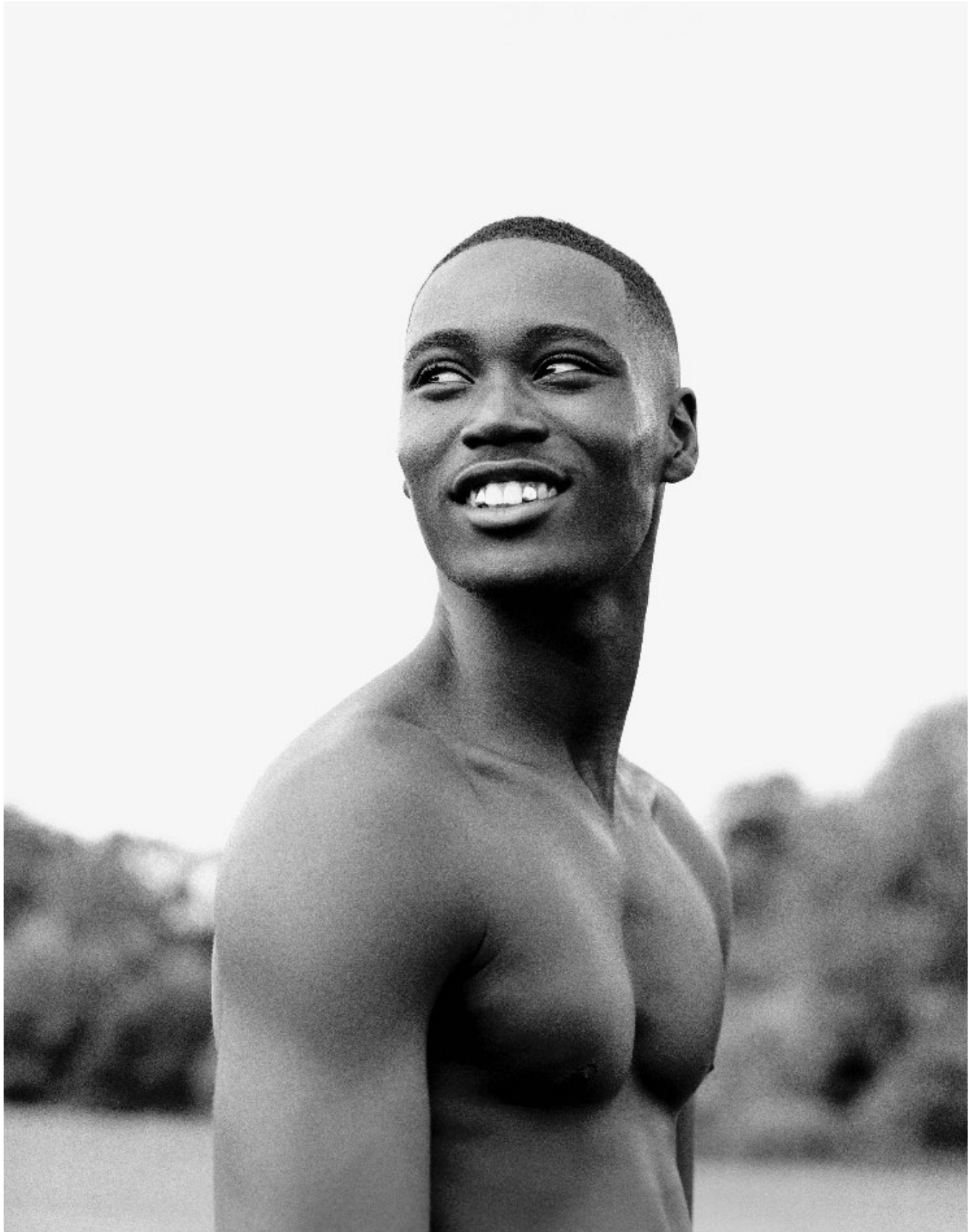


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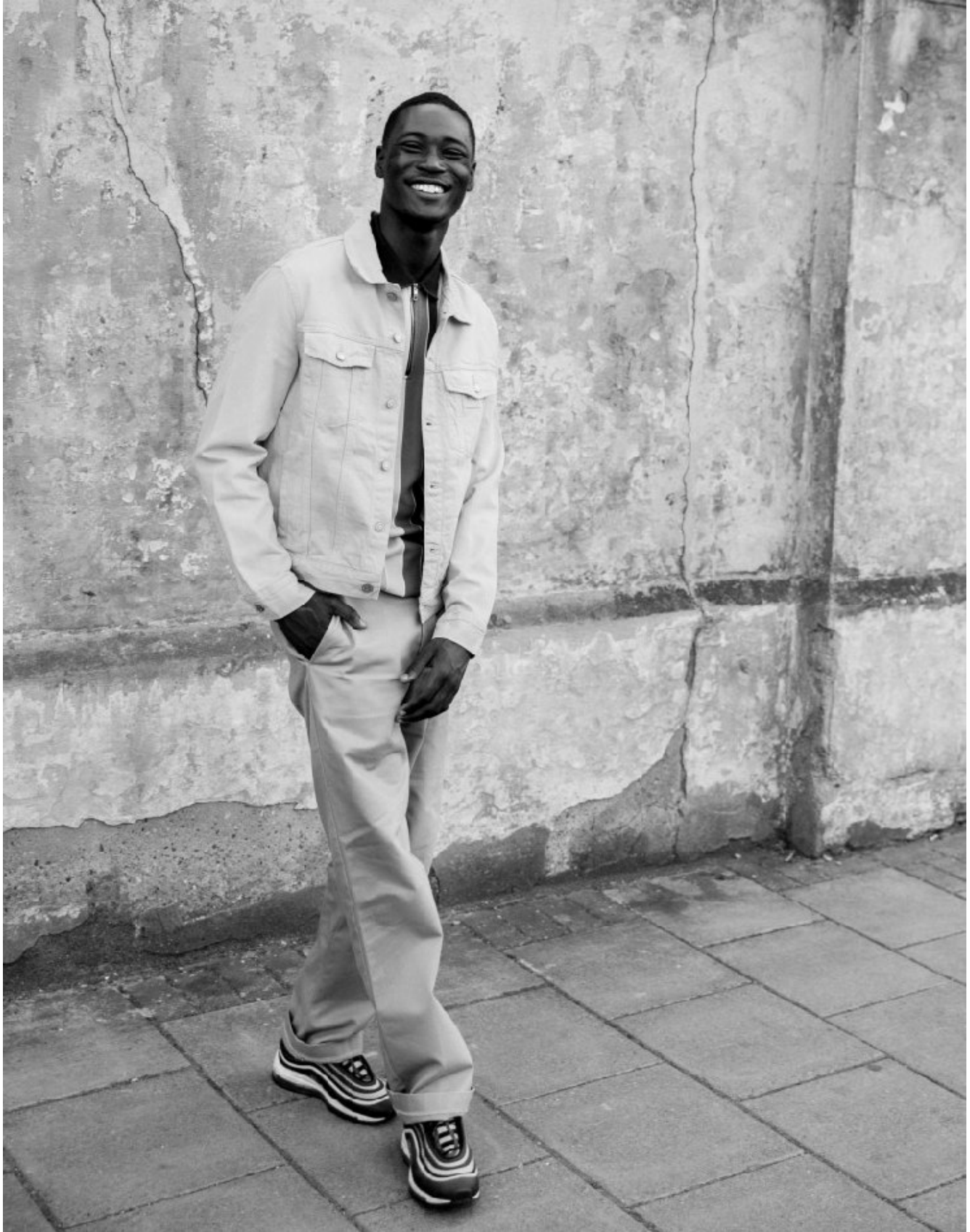


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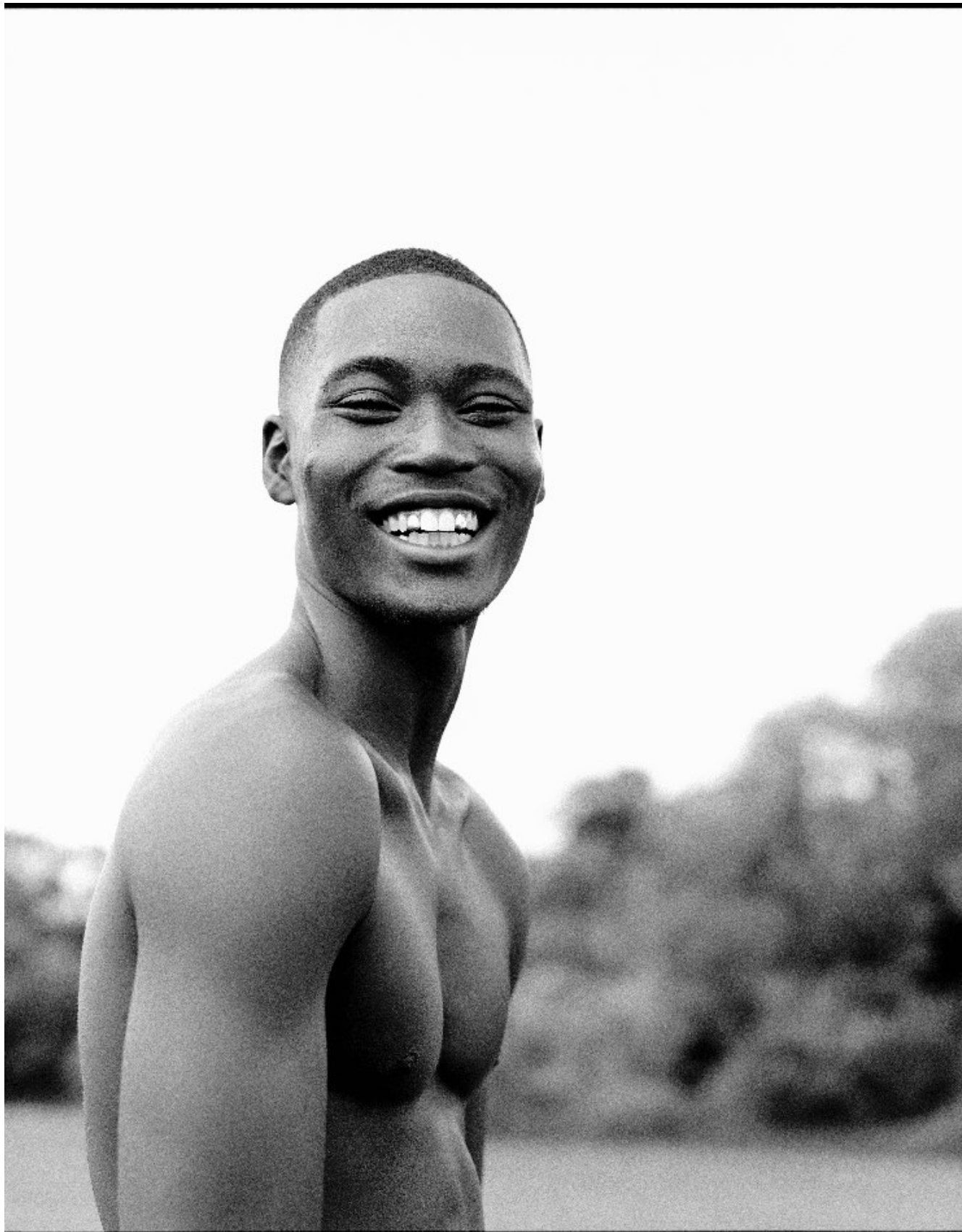


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