

Why it

TFB Magazine is a bold extension of TFB Collective, combining visual storytelling with a focus on personal and professional development for creatives. Every issue of TFB Magazine is a cultural bridge that connects various artistic communities through thought-provoking narratives and creative exploration.

TFB Magazine's Issue 02, titled "The Accent Issue," is dedicated to celebrating the often-overlooked yet essential details that bring editorial work to life. We shine a spotlight on makeup artistry, hairstyling, nail technology, tooth gem/grill design—elements that are the unsung heroes of editorial shoots. This issue highlights their artistry and shows how these accents are critical in shaping visual narratives.

In a world obsessed with the "big picture," we slow down to appreciate the details that make creative work complete. "The Accent Issue" is all about giving credit where it's due, and showing the importance of small, yet mighty, contributions to the creative process.

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MAGAZINE • ISSUE

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Magazine:
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Editor-in-Chief:

Taylor Bennett

Creative Direction & Styling:

Grace Ann Gallagher, Victoria Ruiz, Imani Baptiste,
Kendall Scarone, Iris Schout, Sofya Rogozhnikova

Photography & Editing:

Hanna Middleton, Skylah Meeks, Rachel Tomsche,
Sesora Murakami, Maja Felczak, Tia Podlubny,
Casper Wigbels

Modeling:

Ajiri Oloror, Lauren Frost, Aida Stone, Julien McCrory,
Taren Coleman, Tawni Coleman, Deja' Sheree,
Mila Vanila

Graphic Design:

Thomas Bunt (*Magazine*)
Ania Sharipzhan (*Poster*)

Journalism & Writing:

Orianna Santucci

PR Coordination:

Sofya Rogozhnikova (*Amsterdam*)
Miah Latvala (*Amsterdam & Nyc*)
Jalliyah White (*Atlanta*)

Additional Editorial Support:

Andrea Zetea (*2nd Article / Interview Editor*)

Production Coordination:

Taylor Bennett

Printing:

Aeroprint NL

Distribution Partners:

Athenaeum Boekhandel
(*Amsterdam*)
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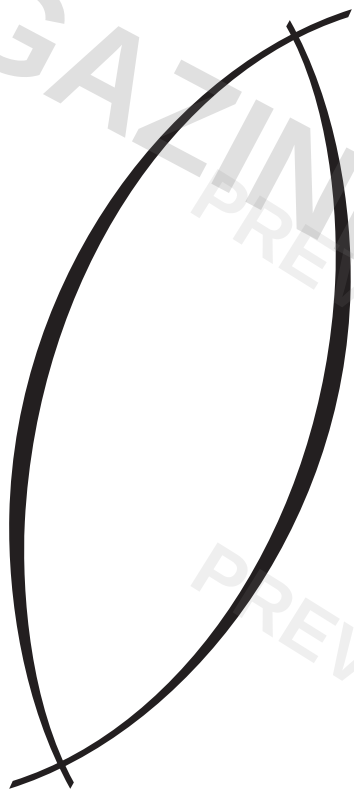
A heartfelt thank-you to our amazing community at TFB Collective. Your dedication and creativity continue to inspire. We're deeply grateful to the incredible talent from Atlanta, Amsterdam, and Los Angeles, whose stories and artistry fill these pages. Thank you for helping us highlight *the Accents of Editorials to Everyday Things*. Special thanks to our launch partners and everyone who contributed to bringing this issue to life.

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In the room, capturing this vibrant exchange, is *Casper Wigbels*, Artistic Director and photographer for the salon. Casper's lens documents not just Mila's craft but the spirit of Kinki Straatweg—a salon that celebrates boldness, inclusion, and individuality. The conversation itself unfolds between Mila and *Thomas Bunt*, TFB Magazine's graphic designer, as they delve into the layers of her life and work.

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Mila Vanilla

Behind the Chair: Mila Vanilla and the Art of Authentic Connection

The air inside Kinki Straatweg Salon is electric —filled with the sounds of laughter, scissors snipping, and the occasional hum of a blow dryer. This isn't just a space for hairstyling; it's a stage for self-expression, a refuge for individuality, and a canvas for creativity. At the center of it all is Mila, better known as *Mila Vanilla* on Instagram.

Mila is more than a hairstylist. She is an advocate for self-expression, a muse for empowerment, and a storyteller who weaves authenticity into everything she does. Today, for TFB Magazine Issue 02: The Accent Issue, we sat down with her to explore the depth of the hairstylist-client relationship, the life of a hairdresser after the shop closes, and how she bridges the gap between her artistry and personal life.

A Relationship Built on Trust

Mila: "Alright, so what do you want to do with your hair today?"

Thomas: "The '60s bang again—same as last time."

This seemingly simple exchange sets the tone for the day. For Mila, hairstyling is more than just a job; it's a gateway to building trust and intimacy with her clients.

"Sitting in someone's chair is one of the most intimate things," Mila reflects. "I'm literally touching your head, washing your hair. It's a connection that's both anonymous and deeply personal. People share so much about their lives in this space, and it's a privilege to be trusted with their stories."

Mila believes that the connection between a hairstylist and a client transcends the salon experience. It's about creating a space where clients can feel like their most authentic selves, whether through a daring new haircut or the conversations that flow effortlessly during an appointment.

Empowerment Through Expression

Beyond the salon, Mila's life is a vibrant canvas of self-expression. Her online presence celebrates her sexuality and confidence, challenging societal norms and misconceptions.

"People often assume that because I talk about and express my sexuality, I must be having sex all the time," Mila says, laughing. "But it's not about that. For me, it's about owning my sensuality, feeling good in my skin, and inspiring others to embrace their authentic selves."

Her journey toward this unapologetic authenticity was deeply personal—more than just a reaction to a toxic relationship, it was about gaining comfort in her own body. Mila recalls her first photoshoots in 2018 as a transformative experience, a form of exposure therapy that allowed her to blossom into the woman she is today.

"At first, it was a big 'f*** you' to someone who didn't let me be myself," she shares. "But as I continued, I realized it was about so much more—it was about me. Pushing past my insecurities, reclaiming my body, and truly seeing myself."

Women started messaging me, saying they felt empowered because of my posts. It's amazing when something that starts as self-love resonates with others."

The Layers of Vulnerability

While Mila exudes confidence, she's quick to acknowledge the complexities beneath the surface. As a Black woman and a business owner, she's navigated the pressures of societal expectations and the myth of the "strong woman."

Thomas: "Do you ever feel like being labeled as strong is a double-edged sword?"

Mila: "Absolutely. People love to label Black women as 'strong,' but that narrative can be so isolating. It makes it harder to be vulnerable and ask for help. For a long time, I thought I could handle everything on my own, but that mindset led to burnout. Vulnerability is strength too. It's okay to admit when you need support."

The Creative Ecosystem

Kinki Straatweg is more than just a salon; it's a reflection of Mila's ethos. From the bold hairstyles she crafts to the eclectic decor—including a BDSM-themed restroom inspired by a former client's suggestion—every element is a statement of individuality and openness.

"Our clients come here because they know they can be themselves," Mila says. "Whether it's the way we speak, the music we play, or even the unconventional decor, it's all about creating an environment where everyone feels seen and celebrated."

For Mila, hairstyling and self-expression are two sides of the same coin. "With hair, you're helping someone showcase their personality," she says. "It's an extension of who they are."

Spirituality, Shrooms, and Staying Grounded

Amid her vibrant lifestyle, Mila finds balance through spirituality and self-reflection. Whether it's through tarot readings, meditative practices, or the occasional psychedelic journey, she prioritizes reconnecting with her inner self.

Thomas: "How do you recharge after giving so much of yourself to others?"

Mila: "Spirituality helps me process life and stay centered. Sometimes I'll take shrooms, put on some music, and just dance. It's cathartic. It helps me release stuck energy, whether it's sadness, joy, or sensuality."

These rituals, she explains, are less about escaping reality and more about embracing it.

"With shrooms, the ego fades, and you're left with the core of who you are. It's a reminder that, no matter what, everything is going to be okay."

Embracing the Full Spectrum

As the conversation winds down, Mila reflects on the interconnectedness of her many roles—hairstylist, performer, activist, and human.

"I used to think I needed separate spaces for my personal and professional lives, but now I embrace it all as one," she says. "I want people to see me for everything I am, not just the parts that fit neatly into their expectations."

Mila's story is a testament to the power of authenticity, the beauty of vulnerability, and the importance of creating spaces where people can be unapologetically themselves. Whether she's crafting the perfect '60s bang or sharing a deeply personal Instagram post, Mila is a living, breathing celebration of the accents that make each of us unique.

Photography by Casper Wigbels, capturing the vibrancy of Mila's story and the creative spirit of Kinki Straatweg.



Issue 02
The Accent Issue

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