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PAIR OF ACES *The Dee and Ricky Interview*



above: Dee & Ricky

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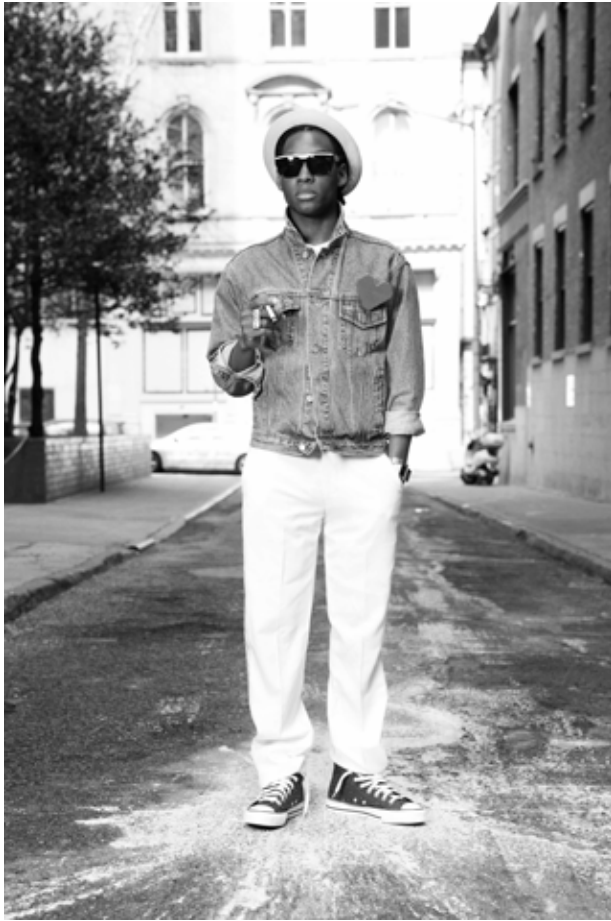
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“Because at the end of the day, this is all a game...”

Twenty-something New York twins Dee and Ricky have been all over the map the last few years, and always in all the right places. From their Lego-accessories, sported at Marc Jacobs' Spring 08 runway, to their starter-jackets-turned-duffel bags for No Mas, to appearances in ads for Puma and Nike and an upcoming collaboration with Takashi Murakami, the twins are at the top of their game. Clear interviewed the pair this week, and the creative entrepreneurs and masters of the unexpected were in fine form...



above: Dee



above: Ricky

What's your earliest fashion or art memory?

Ricky: Ernie and Bert

Dee: a diaper

How did you two begin your fashion/design careers?

Ricky: I could never get a normal job...No one hired me...Hah...but I was always making my own garments and pieces...Everybody wanted something, so I decided to sell my stuff I designed or made...It kept my pocket full.

How do think your Staten Island roots affect your attitude as artists? Your versatile aesthetic?

Ricky: Well...growing up around gwedos, hood people and diverse crowds definitely helped out...And Staten Island is its own world and when you're in your own world you have different creative thought(s).

Dee: Yep...There's no one else on Staten Island that reps Staten Island that popped from Staten Island.

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How has art shaped your perception of the world around you?

Ricky: Helps me look at your average day items differently. To me, now everything is art; that's how I view it.

Dee: It makes the world more interesting...Duhhhhh.

Your work offers a unique take on pop culture. What inspires you as artists/designers?

Ricky: Pops not pop till it pops...ahahah...But just my surrounding and child hood growing up...The New York ambience...and bums.

Being more than just collaborators – being twins - how would you describe your working style?

Dee: Whimsical fun...Left field...Different...Controversial...versatile...

Ricky: Just getting in where it fits in..

What was it like working with a fashion icon like Marc Jacobs?

Ricky: We were cool. We were soaked...It was like you really, really didn't understand 'til a few months later. Like holy s***, did we just do that a few months go?...Now it's crazy...press kit looks crazy...resumes bananas...

Your LEGO inspired accessories are a hit. Do we foresee a special Dee & Ricky LEGO line soon?

Ricky: Yeah, if they pay us enough money I'm down. Ahahahaha..

How did the starter jacket duffle bag collaboration with No Mas come about?

Dee: We were talking to to c.I of No Mas and he was like, I'd love to work with you guys, and we said were down. He had a closet full of starter jackets and showed us his inventory, and me and Rick just thought, hey, let's turn these into duffle bags...

What's been most fun for you so far?

Ricky: I can't put my finger on it, to tell you the truth...

You're known for playing with unexpected materials when you design. Any new mediums up your sleeve that you can share?

Ricky: Yeah...We're working with some rubber materials for one...And magnets.

It's been an exciting few years. What's the biggest lesson you've learned?

Dee: Being consistent and staying consistent..

Ricky: Have fun!

What do you consider your greatest strength as artists? Where do you see yourselves growing?

Dee: Definitely how we grew up, because you had to go through it to do it...

Ricky: Hah...Everywhere...Fashion, art, music...We've planted our seeds in every one of those genres and more...

Who do you think is at the top of the fashion/design game today and why?

Ricky: It's hard to tell nowadays; certain brands have selective pieces...I dabble around a lot so I can't say.

Dee: Rick's right.

Tell us about your Takashi Murakami collaboration.

Ricky: We did some interesting, high-end toy accessory concepts, and also Japanese, just to show another side of Dee and Ricky. Because at the end of the day, this is all a game...

Dee: Yeah, we brought out our high-end thinking caps for this one folks. Colors and leathers...

What's next for you? Are there any dream collaborations in mind?


Ricky: Yeah, with my grandmother... And I got a few others in my head...Hah...

Dee: IDK, yet only time will tell. Everything is random to us...Yea, I'd like to collaborate with God...

-Interview by Anna Carnick, with Morin Yousif

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POSTED BY ANNA CARNICK

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