

SHARP

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THE BOOK FOR MEN

SPRING/
SUMMER
2014

*WHAT
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*STYLE • SUITS
ACCESSORIES
TIMEPIECES
TRENDS • TRAVEL
AUTOMOBILES
ADVICE*

164

SHARP: THE BOOK FOR MEN
SPRING/SUMMER 2014

Style

The Artist as Muse

**Six modern masters whose style extended
beyond the canvas**

BY YANG-YI GOH



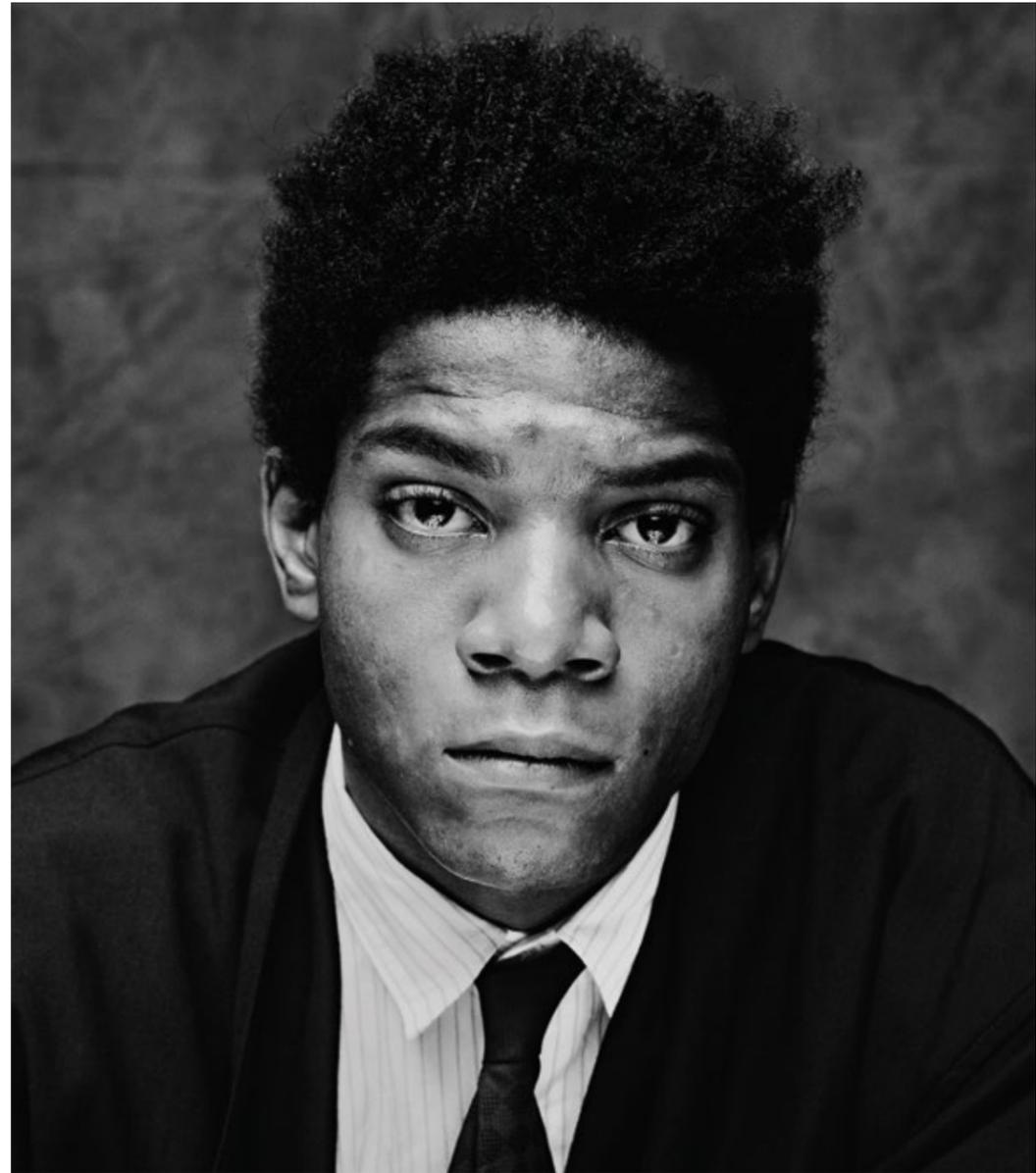
DAVID HOCKNEY

In his vivid paintings of twisting English landscapes and fluorescent Californian swimming pools, Hockney has always displayed an uncanny and entirely singular understanding of colour. Canary yellows crash into chlorinated turquoises; persimmons and purples and greens wind and weave like a peloton of cyclists. The 76-year-old Brit applies the same divergent colour theory to his wardrobe. He is, for instance, a known disbeliever in wearing socks in matching hues, preferring instead the relative discord of a red left foot and a lilac right. And it's in such minor details—in his subtle affectations and expressions—that Hockney attains a look of grace and comfort in his clothing that is impossible to replicate.



ANDY WARHOL

Warhol led us to view the modern world through a lens of skepticism and deadpan humour. But it was his own lenses—his signature eyewear—that would define him sartorially. Beneath his unruly shock of platinum blond, The Factory founder framed his face with a predictably well-edited, fashionable array of shades and specs: clear plastic numbers, oversized aviators, rounded tortoiseshell wayfarers, all worn with effortless aplomb. They were the lynchpins of Warhol's variegated closet, glasses that would go on to become nearly as iconic as the artist who wore them.



JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

For an emblem of downtown cool, Basquiat's chosen ensembles were often oddly conservative and conventional—on paper, at least. He'd paint in an Armani suit, or romp around New York in a duffel coat and khakis. And yet, no one would ever mistake him for a banker or boarding school dropout, because he wore these things with an attitude, defiance and character that made them entirely his own. Basquiat was, and remains, the very best example of a man who defined his clothes, and not the other way around.



SALVADOR DALI

The celebrated surrealist was a master of crafting an image, and one seldom saw Dali dressed in anything other than his dandyish double-breasted suits complete with all the eccentric trimmings. Even on the rare occasions that the brilliantly mustachioed artist would step out in casualwear—like, for instance, this gorgeous batik-print shirt—it would be bold and peculiar, in keeping with the idiosyncrasies of his persona. The average gent might find Dali’s style too unusual to duplicate directly, but even sprinklings of his fearless aesthetic are enough to liven up a staid summer wardrobe.



PABLO PICASSO

There was the Blue Period, the Rose Period, the African Period, the birth of Cubism, and beyond. He wrestled with theory and logic, experimented with techniques, and pushed his genius to unforeseen heights. But through it all, Picasso dressed in a manner befitting both his Spanish roots and his adopted home in the south of France. Nautical striped shirts—breezy, Mediterranean, and utterly chic—became his signature, and he wore them with a kind of casual elegance that resonated as potently as his art. Owning an actual Picasso remains a dream for most, but it’s a worthy consolation that one can borrow a bit of his style.