

RUSSO ▲ LEE GALLERY

Artist Statement | August 2024

SEEN, NOT HEARD

I was raised by women who refused to merely be seen, but not heard. Growing up in Chicago, JET Magazine was an integral part of our culture. The pocket-sized magazines were collected by my mother in a woven basket in the corner of our living room. JET Magazine was my social media well before Twitter or Instagram. The history documented and celebrated on these pages helped build the narrative foundation of my work. Every new issue of JET was a window onto another, wider world – a world suffused with dignity, respect, a healthy dose of glamour, and, most importantly, a sense of possible, even probable futures unlike any I had witnessed.

- Julian V.L. Gaines