Arthur Jafa, Monster, 1988/2019; Monster II, 2017

Strong looks, strong poses ...
As Black people, we are the ill sons, the illegitimate progeny, in the West. Although we can take advantage of all the merits Western society has to offer, we are still estranged. It is a common experience of African-Americans, homosexual people, or women. (1)

Imagine you are looking into a mirror:
Take a photo of your gaze with your smartphone. Give your selfie a title.

Compare your photos with Arthur Jafa’s “Monster”. Is it also merely a look in the mirror in his case? Why did the artist choose the title “Monster”?

Find a pose that reinforces your gaze’s statement. Take photos of each other. Find suitable titles.

Compare your poses with “Monster II”. Imitate the pose of the artwork. How does that feel?

(1) A. Jafa, qtd. in: Forever Young. 10 Years Museum Brandhorst, Munich 2019, p. 13.