

MICHELE BELLONI

P H O T O G R A P H E R



A CURATED FASHION PORTFOLIO.

Michele Belloni is an Italian photographer working at the intersection of fashion, conceptual portraiture, and narrative visual storytelling.

Based in Rome and operating globally, his practice is defined by a rigorous aesthetic that bridges contemporary editorial demands with a deeply rooted fine art sensibility.

His work seamlessly combines painterly lighting, cinematic atmospheres, and a meticulous attention to character construction, creating images that feel suspended between a high-fashion editorial spread and a fine art gallery exhibition.

Central to his signature style is a masterful use of subtractive lighting and a deep commitment to the craft of chiaroscuro.

By treating shadows not merely as an absence of light but as an active narrative element, his imagery coaxes an organic, three-dimensional texture out of fabrics, skin, and environments alike.



THE BLACK SWAN.

The genesis of a vision never lies in accumulation, but in subtraction. Creating **The Black Swan** series meant embracing the void as a descriptive space, allowing the darkness to shape the matter long before the light could. It was not a matter of documenting a subject, but of evoking a primordial archetype, metamorphosis and introspection, through a rigorous balance of geometry and texture.





The Black Swan

1. PREPARATORY SKETCHES



Proud profile — the swan's silence.



The gaze that both seduces and judges.



Hands as frame — revealing and concealing.



Back as vulnerability — strength and surrender in the same breath.



Caged yet unbowed — the circle as both prison and sanctuary.

2. LIGHT REFERENCES (OLD MASTERS)



Caravaggio
"St. John the Baptist" (1602)
• Tenebrism
• Single soft light at 45°
• Deep shadows
• Naturalism and spiritual tension



Rembrandt
"Self-Portrait" (1659)
• Chiaroscuro
• Sculptural volume
• Painty intimacy
• Emotional depth through light



Georges de La Tour
"Magdalene with the Smoking Flame" (1640)
• Quiet reverence
• A single light source
• Mystery and introspection

3. MATERIALS & CHOICES

BLACK FEATHERS



Irregular surfaces absorb light unevenly for velvety depth and movement.

BLACKTHORN BRANCHES



Intertwined, wild, and untamed — symbolize restriction, nature's quiet strength, and organic chaos.

BEADED FEATHER COLLAR



Weight, texture, and ritual. The beads ground the piece; the feathers evoke the swan's plumage and ancestral ornaments.

CAGE-DRAPE STRUCTURE



Architectural yet organic. Suggests both entrapment and transformation.

RIBBONS & WIRE FRAME



Create the cage geometry. Flexible lines that can constrict or open; structure with elegance.

DARK TEXTURAL FABRICS



Tulle, gauze, and silk — for layering, shadow, and ethereal movement. They veil, reveal, and breathe with the body.

4. MODEL CHOICE



Chosen for her exceptionally slender neck and clavicular line, sharp features, and pronounced bone structure. Her face is a perfect canvas for graphic makeup, her presence moves between vulnerability and fierce royalty. She embodies the dual nature of the swan.

5. FINAL INTENTION

The Black Swan is a study of duality — freedom and captivity, beauty and danger, metamorphosis and introspection. Through sculpted light and textural contrast, the series transforms the body into a mythic, dreamlike presence. The cage is not only a prison but a stage, a mirror, and a threshold. She is both creature and queen, suspended between shadow and revelation, where darkness becomes her language and silence her power.



6. COLOR PALETTE



CHARCOAL BLACK



SEPIA SHADOW



BONE IVORY



MUTED SKIN



SMOKY BROWN



THE ROOTED CROWN.

The Rooted Crown is a conceptual case study examining the symbolic intersection between human identity and nature. This editorial breaks down the creative process of transforming raw botanical roots into an avant-garde crown: a powerful visual metaphor for ancestral grounding and human resilience.



The Rooted Crown

CASE STUDY IN VISUAL PHILOSOPHY

1. PREPARATORY SKETCHES

Three-quarter portrait study — emphasis on jawline and noble bearing.

Seated posture — contained, protective, and grounded.

Upward gaze — aspiration within restraint.

Headpiece study — asymmetrical architecture, living textures, organic tension.

2. LIGHT REFERENCES (OLD MASTERS)



CARAVAGGIO
SAINT JEROME
(Tenebrism)
Dramatic directional light from the side, high contrast, emotional intensity.



REMBRANDT
SELF PORTRAIT
(Volumetric)
Soft, enveloping light that reveals form, texture, and human depth.



GEORGES DE LA TOUR
(Candlelight)
Quiet illumination, intimate mood, sculptural shadow.

3. MATERIALS & CHOICES



Wild Blackthorn Branches
Symbolize organic growth arranged as an architecture of restriction.



Dried Grasses & Wild Grasses
Add movement, contrast, and soft absorption of light.



Heather & Thistle
Textures of resilience and quiet wildness.



Deep-Pile Fur Wrap
Acts as primal grounding element—tactile, protective, and timeless.

4. WHY THIS MODEL?

- Chosen for classical grace and defined bone structure.
- Emotive profile with sculptural clarity.
- Slender neck and clavicular line enhance elegance and vulnerability.
- Gaze capable of aspiration and introspective restraint.

5. POSE GEOMETRY (The Anatomy of a Pose)

Neck elongated, chin lifted in aspiration.

Clavicular line open and highlighted.

Hands form a protective barrier — holding self with intention.

Shoulders gently rounded inward — containment and grace.

6. COLOR PALETTE



7. INTENTION / VISUAL PHILOSOPHY

The *Rooted Crown* explores the tension between growth and the structures that bind us. The crown is not ornamental but architectural—branches and grasses forming a living constraint. The fur grounds the figure in primal memory. Through asymmetrical chiaroscuro and Baroque influence, the portrait becomes a meditation on resilience, beauty, and the quiet power of bearing what we carry.

Rooted, yet reaching. Bound, yet becoming.

8. DETAILS & NOTES

- Asymmetrical composition reflects natural growth and inner balance.
- Texture layering: skin, fur, wiry branches, soft grasses — contrast of elements.
- Lighting: single source, sculptural, revealing form and mood.
- Mood: timeless, raw, and poetic; strength within stillness.



CLOCKWORK WILDERNESS.

Clockwork Wilderness is

a fine-art fashion editorial exploring the tension between mathematical human rigidity and organic decay. The narrative utilizes painterly chiaroscuro to contrast structured, avant-garde silhouettes against the raw textures of nature. Through a cinematically paced sequence alternating tactile details with expansive compositions, this series seamlessly bridges high fashion and psychological portraiture.



CLOCKWORK WILDERNESS

A VISUAL STUDY FOR AN EDITORIAL SERIES

PREPARATORY STUDIES



BUST STUDY

- EXPLORING EXPRESSION AND LIGHT
- FOCUS ON EYES AND EMOTIONAL DEPTH.



PROFILE STUDY

- STUDYING SILHOUETTE AND HAT PROPORTIONS
- ROMANTIC VICTORIAN ATTITUDE.



COMPOSITION SKETCH

- BLENDING BOTANICAL ELEMENTS WITH TIMEPIECES AND GEARWORK.
- DREAMLIKE, POETIC TENSION BETWEEN NATURE AND MECHANISM.



HAT & GOGGLES DETAIL

- SYMBOLS OF INVENTION, TRAVEL AND IMAGINATION.
- WORN, WEATHERED, STORIES OF THE PAST.



HAND STUDY

- LACE AND LEATHER TEXTURES
- GRACEFUL AND STRONG



WHY THIS MODEL?



Chiara was chosen because she carries strength and vulnerability at once. Her expressive eyes and strong bone structure work beautifully with chiaroscuro lighting. Her natural curls add texture and movement. Her calm, confident presence brings authenticity and depth, making the character believable and timeless.

LIGHT REFERENCES (OLD MASTERS)



REMBRANDT

- GRADUAL SHADOW TRANSITIONS
- SOFT, ATMOSPHERIC LIGHT
- EMOTIONAL INTIMACY.



CARAVAGGIO

- DRAMATIC CHIAROSCURO
- STRONG DIRECTIONAL LIGHT
- RAW, EMOTIONAL INTENSITY.



VERMEER

- SOFT NATURAL LIGHT FROM ONE SIDE
- QUIET, TIMELESS ATMOSPHERE
- PAINTERLY RESTRAINT.

MATERIALS & CHOICES



STEAMPUNK HAT

- TOP HAT FOR VICTORIAN AUTHORITY AND ALTERNATE HISTORY.



GOGGLES

- INVENTION, EXPLORATION AND A SENSE OF WONDER.



CORSET

- STRUCTURE, STRENGTH AND ELEGANCE.
- SHAPES THE SILHOUETTE AND NARRATIVE.



LACE / MESH

- TEXTURE AND DETAIL.
- BALANCE OF SOFTNESS AND STRENGTH.



LEATHER GLOVES

- PROTECTION AND PRACTICALITY.
- SENSUAL AND STORY DRIVEN.



FERN BRANCHES

- WILDERNESS ELEMENT.
- SYMBOL OF RESILIENCE, GROWTH, AND TIME.



GEARS / CLOCKWORK

- ORDER, MECHANISM, AND HUMAN INGENUITY.

COLOR PALETTE



INTENTION

Clockwork Wilderness is a poetic fusion of nature and mechanism, where time, invention and instinct coexist.

A world where ferns grow through gears, butterflies circle clock faces, and a wanderer moves between realms.

This series celebrates the beauty of contrasts — structure and wildness, past and possibility, strength and grace.

"In the silence between gears, she hears the whispers of the wild."

DRESSED IN MEMORY.



Dressed in Memory is a cinematic fashion editorial reimagining 1940s nostalgia and elegance through a contemporary fine-art lens. The narrative utilizes atmospheric lighting and structured vintage tailoring to explore the melancholic intersection of memory and identity. Through a cohesive, evocatively paced sequence, this series seamlessly transforms historical romance into a compelling psychological portrait.



DRESSED IN MEMORY

A 1940s-INSPIRED FASHION EDITORIAL

CONCEPT & VISUAL GENESIS

PREPARATORY SKETCHES



CLASSICAL LIGHT REFERENCES



VERMEER
LADY READING A LETTER



REMBRANDT
SASKIA BY A WINDOW



CARAVAGGIO
MARY MAGDALENE



EDWARD HOPPER
MORNING SUN



ANDERS ZORN
PORTRAIT STUDIES



DEGAS
WOMAN ADJUSTING
HER STOCKING

CONCEPT

A VISUAL LETTER TO THE WOMEN OF THE 1940s – THEIR POISE, STRENGTH AND QUIET GRACE. THE EDITORIAL BLENDS NOSTALGIA AND STORYTELLING, EVOKING A HIDDEN MOMENT SUSPENDED BETWEEN MEMORY AND DREAM.

KEY IDEAS

- INTIMATE NARRATIVE
- 1940s FEMININITY
- MEMORY AS AN HEIRLOOM
- SOFTNESS AND STRENGTH
- LIGHT AS REMEMBRANCE

MATERIALS & PROPS



LEATHER GLOVES,
SOFT AND WORN,
A TOUCH OF
ELEGANCE



VINTAGE CAMERA
AS A WITNESS
OF TIME



OLD LETTERS,
PERFUME BOTTLES,
PERSONAL RELICS



SUITCASE
AS A SYMBOL
OF JOURNEY
AND MEMORY

WHY THIS MODEL



HER FEATURES EVOKE THE TIMELESS BEAUTY OF THE 1940s. SHE HAS A NATURAL POISE AND EXPRESSIVE EYES THAT CONVEY BOTH STRENGTH AND SENSITIVITY.

HER ABILITY TO EMBODY NOSTALGIA WITHOUT ARTIFICE BRINGS AUTHENTICITY AND DEPTH TO THE NARRATIVE.

LIGHTING & ATMOSPHERE



SOFT WINDOW LIGHT AS THE MAIN SOURCE, MODELING THE FACE AND FABRICS.

DEEP SHADOWS TO CREATE INTIMACY AND MYSTERY.

A WARM, MUTED GRADE TO RECALL OLD PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORIES.

COLOR PALETTE



MOOD & ESSENCE

A POETIC HOMAGE TO THE PAST, WHERE FASHION BECOMES MEMORY AND EVERY DETAIL TELLS A STORY.

"DRESSED IN MEMORY" IS NOT JUST AN EDITORIAL, BUT A TIME CAPSULE OF EMOTIONS, ELEGANCE AND FEMININE RESILIENCE.

THE DAMASK NOCTURNE.

The Damask Nocturne is a cinematic fashion editorial exploring the tactile tension between fluid silk and the heavy weight of decadent, dark interiors. Curated for discerning print editors, the narrative utilizes subtractive chiaroscuro to isolate the subject within an atmospheric, speakeasy-inspired environment. Through a cohesive, evocatively paced sequence, this print-ready series masterfully transforms material contrast into a powerful statement of contemporary elegance.



The Damask Nocturne: Silk Against The Dark

2. Preparatory Sketches



Seated strength, soft melancholy.



Profile study—proud, refined, aloof.



Longitudinal silhouette, late hour reverie.



Hands and silk—texture and tension.



Head study—sculptural hair, haunting.

4. Materials & Choices



Blush Silk Satin
Fluid and luminous. Soft against the skin, catching light in quiet ripples. Feminine yet restrained.



Burgundy Tufted Leather
Aged, rich, enduring. Brings weight and structure. Timeless masculine elegance.



Dark Damask Wallpaper
Ornate and decadent. A backdrop of memory and secrecy. Texture that swallows and reveals.



Antique Gold Mirror Detail
Gilded passage of light. Reflects and fragments reality. Echo of another world.



Painted High Heels
Elongate the line. Add elegance and intent. Balanced strength.

Sculpted Hair Detail
Controlled architecture. A vintage nod that frames the face and adds power.



"A modern nocturne set within a secret salon—where silk softens the dark and memory lingers in gold."

5. Why This Model

She was chosen for her refined bone structure, fair skin, and delicate features that hold both softness and resolve. Her gaze is magnetic—proud yet melancholic—as if she carries a secret known only to the night. Her tattoos connect her to the rebellious soul of this location, while her poise preserves contemporary elegance. She is both the dream and the defiance—silk against the dark.



6. Lighting & Atmosphere

The light is soft, directional, and painterly—raking across face and silk, leaving the rest in velvety shadow. It breathes with the room, creating depth and intimacy. The atmosphere is nocturnal and cinematic, a modern speakeasy mood where gilded details glow and solitude becomes seductive.



Caravaggio
Mary Magdalene
c. 1595–1600

Deep chiaroscuro with a single raking light. Intimate shadow, spiritual gravity, sculpted form.



Rembrandt
Saskia
c. 1634

Gentle darkness and luminous skin. Painterly softness, mystery, quiet dignity.



John Singer Sargent
Madame X
1884

Selective light on face and form. Bold silhouette, refined modernity, poise and distance.

7. Color Palette

Blush Satin
#E6C7BC

Oxblood Leather
#5A2A2A

Antique Gold
#C8A35A

Smoke Taupe
#7A6F66

Damask Black
#1B1A1A

Shadow Brown
#3B2B22



THE WEIGHT OF QUIET.

The Weight of Quiet is an evocative fashion editorial exploring the expressive power of the human form as an unspoken language. Curated for discerning print editors, the narrative utilizes sculptural and minimalist lighting to capture the heavy essence of stillness and internal contemplation. Through a cohesive and beautifully paced sequence, this print ready series masterfully transforms physical gesture into a profound statement of contemporary elegance.



The Weight Of Quiet: Body As Language

concept board & visual genesis

PREPARATORY SKETCHES



The mind
crowds.
The hands
search for
stillness.



The body
folds inward.
Weight
becomes
shape.



Protection
as posture.
A quiet
withdrawal.



Presence
held in
stillness.
The gaze
without
assertion.

Contained
on the floor.
A holding
space.

LIGHT REFERENCES (OLD MASTERS)



Caravaggio
- Penitent
Magdalene

Tenebrism.
Light carves
the form
out of
darkness.



Rembrandt
- Late
Prayer Study

Inner light.
Emotional
gravity held
in shadow.



La Tour
- Magdalene
with the
Smoking Flame

Simplicity
of light source,
intimacy,
meditative
silence.



MATERIALS & STYLING

- White cotton and lace dress
- Spaghetti straps
- Lace trim at hem and waist
- Loose, unstyled hair
- Almost no visible jewelry
- Minimal makeup

No props —
absence becomes
structure.

Black seamless backdrop
rendered nearly void-like.



WHY THIS MODEL

Giulia was chosen for
her physical intelligence,
her ability to surrender
self-consciousness,
and her capacity to let
the body carry emotion
without theatrical
overperformance.



LIGHTING & TECHNICAL SETUP



One medium
strip box to
subject-left
at a steep
downward
angle.

No fill.
No reflector.
No background
light.

Floor dissolves
into backdrop.

Shadows extended in post only to
reinforce a darkness already present
in camera.

COLOR PALETTE



Bone
White

Ivory
Lace

Warm
Taupe

Smoke
Brown

Deep
Charcoal

Near
Black

MOOD & ESSENCE

Stillness as strength.
Withdrawal as truth.
A quiet force held within —
inward tension, unspoken,
the body as the primary
instrument of expression.

Minimal everything. Maximum feeling.



PROJECT 07 / FREEING WOMEN FROM THE TERROR OF YOUTH AND PERFECTION

BEYOND ETERNAL YOUTH

A visual study rooted in **authenticity**, where the camera serves as an instrument of truth rather than an illusion. This approach strips away the noise of modern digital artifice to focus entirely on visceral, uncompromised character.

Working on a strict "**skin-first**" philosophy, the process rejects heavy foundations and airbrushed perfection. By stripping away the pressure of youth-obsessed perfection, the resulting portraits offer agency bookers a direct, unfiltered look at true personality.







THANK YOU

MICHELEBELLONI.NET

email: info@michelebelloni.net | phone: +39 340 9531313 | instagram: [@mike_belloni](https://www.instagram.com/mike_belloni)