

Passing Strange Mayar Al Dhaheri

A project initially made out of boredom, sheer fun, and playing around with photoshop turned into something that I'm quite proud of.

"Passing Strange" as a series is a love letter to my previous abode and the accompanying visceral feeling of its big city lifestyle. I lived in New York for a short period of time, and I admire the fast-paced environment I was constantly immersed in. Looking back now, I think I was too overwhelmed to fully appreciate it; so, this is my way of making it up to the city. The title of the series is inspired by my favorite play, Passing Strange, written by Stew. I watched it in a college class; it immediately resonated with me as I am constantly moving about, searching for meaning in faraway places, whilst running from familial trauma; and its inherent disconnectedness similar to the Youth presented in the play. At the musical's best, you feel the joys of the Youth's journey to Amsterdam in search of an identity. I think this perfectly describes my series and my feelings towards it.