AMERICAN ESOTERICA

BY JEFERSON LANTIGUA

This project explores the esoteric nature of American identity by uncovering the hidden forces of power, race, sexuality, and belonging through the eyes of a newly naturalized immigrant. From my perspective as a gay, Black, Dominican immigrant, an economics major, and a member of Greek life navigating academia, I reveal the country's deep contradictions—its beauty and struggle, its ideals and flaws. The work serves as a reflection on both the personal and the political, inviting viewers to pause and consider their own place within these systems of power. The use of white in every outfit is intentional. It symbolizes purity, emptiness, and the tension between belonging and erasure. Through visual storytelling, symbolism, and performance, I aim to create something striking yet contemplative—an image of America that feels not patriotic, but deeply personal.

DREAM



Teddy Benchley and Rebecca Cassel-Siskind

HOPE



Alloe Mak

RESISTANCE



Abby Tibebe