

# Black Cool: One Thousand Streams Of Blackness

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Black Cool explores the ineffable state and aesthetic of Black Cool. From the effortless reserve of Miles Davis in khakis on an early album cover, to the shock of resistance in black womens fashion from Angela Davis to Rihanna, to the cadence of poets as diverse as Staceyann Chin and Audre Lorde, Black Cool looks at the roots of Black Cool and attempts to name elements of the phenomena that have emerged to shape the global expectation of cool itself. Buoyed by some of Americas most innovative thinkers on the subjectgraphic novelist Mat Johnson, Brown University Professor of African Studies Tricia Rose, critical thinking and cultural icon bell hooks, Macarthur winner Kara Walker, and many morethe book is at once a handbook, a map, a journey into the matrix of another cosmology. Its a literal periodic table of cool, wherein each writer names and defines their element of choice. Dream Hampton writes about Audacity. Helena Andrews about Reserve, Margo Jefferson on Eccentricity, Veronica Chambers on Genius, and so on. With a foreword by Henry Louis Gates that bridges historical African elements of cool with the path laid out for the future, Black Cool offers a provocative perspective on this powerful cultural legacy.

Publisher: Soft Skull Press Illustration: N Language: ENG Title: Black Cool: One Thousand Streams of Blackness Pages: 00160 (Encrypted EPUB) / 00160 (Encrypted PDF) On Sale: 2012-02-01 SKU-13/ISBN: 9781593764173 Category: Literary Collections : American - African American

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