

Martin Douglass Cooper

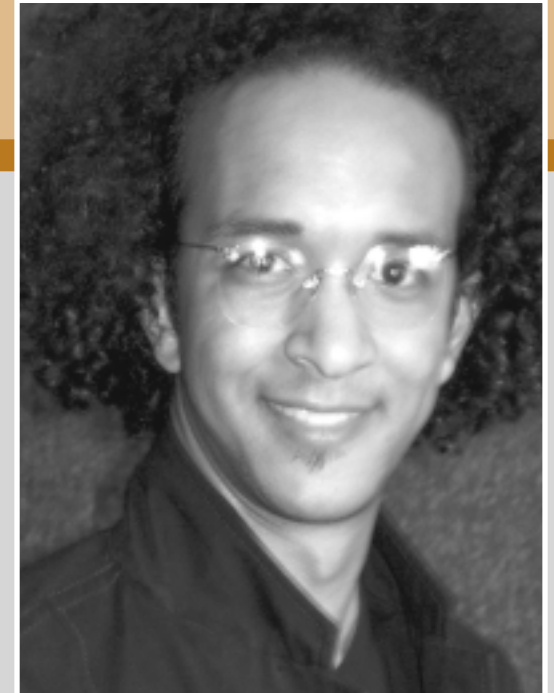
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artin Douglass Cooper, the third son of Dr. Noble P. Cooper and Carole J. Cooper, was born in Columbia, South Carolina on September 15, 1965. At an early age he showed a fervent interest in art and realized that dentistry, the family business, was not for him. His paternal grandmother, Ada Sawyer Cooper, was a wellspring of guidance and inspiration. She had graduated with a degree in fashion design from Pratt Institute in 1922. Cooper and his grandmother collaborated on design projects, including complete sportswear collections from day into evening. She taught her precocious grandson the first principle of fashion design: the human body is three-dimensional.

Cooper was educated at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia. During his summer as a rising junior, his parents made it possible for him to attend the college level summer fashion design program at Parsons School of Design in New York. It was an experience that changed his life. In 1983 he moved to Manhattan to study fashion in Parsons' Bachelor of Fine Arts program. Armed with a poignant piece of advice from his father, "If you are dedicated, disciplined, and tenacious about the next four years of college, you can play the rest of your life." The senior Cooper's parable illustrated the necessity to plant seeds made from sound choices and decisions in order to reap those rewards in the future. At Parsons, Cooper was awarded the Norell Memorial Scholarship for Academic and Creative Excellence. Cooper's student work was placed in the university archives as a benchmark of excellence. It also traveled to Parsons-Japan as a teaching model.

During his senior year, Cooper's critic was fashion great Calvin Klein. He was later personally recruited by Klein to assist in designing his next year's women's wear collection. Cooper graduated magna cum laude from Parsons in 1987 and embarked on a brilliant career as a fashion designer. He has worked for such outstanding labels as Calvin Klein and Burberry. He is currently Vice President for Design at Burberry and serves as a member of The Parsons School of Design's Board of Governors and the President's Board of Alumni Advisors for the New School University. He is also a member of the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA). He is the recipient of Pratt Institute's Creative Spirit Award for Design Excellence.

While traveling the world, Cooper developed a parallel career in fine art photography. In the heart of his creative center, you will find the essence of woman. His projects have taken him into diverse worlds such as astronomy and ancient sports, always using the human form to express ideas that redefine the tradition of the genre. He created OrchisArts, his not-for-profit studio, to make contributions to breast cancer organizations that focus on patient's welfare and care. His works have been exhibited and published internationally, including the Columbia Museum of Art (solo exhibition), the Henry Buhl Collection, the Beth Rudin Dewoody Collection, Bergdorf Goodman, Banana Republic, and numerous international public and private institutions. Cooper is a member of The Royal Photographic Society in England and is married to Karen Suen-Cooper, a luxury leather goods designer.



JULY



2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Carl Lewis, athlete, born in 1961.	2 Civil Rights Act of 1964 signed. Thurgood Marshall born in 1908.	3 First African-American baseball player in the major leagues, Jackie Robinson, was named to Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.
4 Independence Day Tuskegee Institute established in 1881. Slavery abolished in New York in 1827.	5 Arthur Ashe, won the men's Wimbledon singles championship in 1975.	6 Althea Gibson won Wimbledon in 1957.	7 Margaret Walker, writer, was born in 1915.	8 Venus Williams wins Wimbledon in 2000.	9 Francis L. Cardozo installed as South Carolina's Secretary of State in 1868.	10 Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, was born in 1875.
11 Civil rights activist W.E.B. DuBois, founded the Niagara Movement in 1905.	12 Bill Cosby, entertainer, was born in 1937.	13 Continental Congress excluded slavery from Northwest Territory in 1787.	14 George Washington Carver National Monument dedicated in Joplin MO, in 1951.	15 Pompey Lamb, noted spy, aids the American Revolutionary War effort, 1779.	16 V. A. Johnson, first Black female to argue before the US Supreme Court, born, 1882.	17 Billie Holiday, singer, died in 1959.
18 Lemuel Hayes, first Black Congregationalist minister, born in 1753.	19 Patricia R. Harris named secretary of health, education and welfare in 1979.	20 First U.S. Victory in Korea was won by African-American troops in the 24th Infantry Regiment, in 1950.	21 14th Amendment ratified in 1868. National Association of Colored Women was founded in 1896.	22 Abraham Lincoln read the first draft of Emancipation Proclamation to the cabinet, in 1861.	23 Louis Tompkins Wright, physician, was born in 1924.	24 Mary Church Terrell, educator, died in 1954.
25 Garrett T. Morgan, inventor of the gas mask, rescues six from gas-filled tunnel in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1916.	26 Patrick Francis Healy, first African-American awarded a Ph.D. in 1865. President Truman banned discrimination in the armed services in 1948.	27 Inventor A.P. Abourne was awarded patent for refining coconut oil in 1880.	28 The 14th Amendment was adopted in 1868.	29 The first National Convention of Black Women was held in Boston MA, in 1895.	30 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr, activist and politician, was elected congressman from Harlem in 1945.	31 Whitney Young, an Executive Director of the National Urban League, was born in 1921.