



Self-Worth On The Rise

Self-worth is not a trend. It is a return. In a world that often measures women by output, appearance, or approval, remembering our value can feel radical. We may know we are worthy – intellectually – yet still hesitate to charge fully, speak directly, or take up space without apology. This March, LadyLike is exploring what happens when self-worth is not just understood, but embodied. Because when women stop negotiating their value, everything begins to rise.

In This Issue

Community Spotlight: Ya Girl Dynasty

We're proud to feature LadyLike community artist Lucie Sweat, whose work honors the deep roots of authentic blues through music, education, and lineage. From field hollers to early blues traditions, Lucie's artistry is both preservation and protest – a powerful example of how voice can carry history forward while creating space for healing and truth.

Contrast between Maier & Liebowitz

How did we arrive at a place where women can be both accomplished and still uncertain of their worth? This month's feature contrasts two extraordinary lives: Vivian Maier, whose masterful photography remained hidden until after her death, and Annie Leibovitz, whose work defined generations in the public eye. Through their stories, we examine the spectrum of creative expression – from silence to spotlight – and ask what it means to claim our voice fully. As LadyLike expands into new chapters, the question becomes urgent: will we remain unseen, or will we rise?

Knowing your Value is Different than Living it.

The world feels unstable right now – economically, culturally, socially – and when the ground shifts, it becomes harder to stand firmly in ourselves. In this month's feature, we explore how today's tension around self-worth is not new, but deeply rooted in history. For centuries, women's contributions – emotional labor, relational intelligence, long-range vision – have sustained families and societies without being fully measured or monetized. As we continue to talk about equality, we ask a deeper question: are we striving for sameness, or learning to fully embody the distinct value we already carry? Because knowing we are worthy and living as though we believe it are not the same thing.

Join Us Online: The Rise Series

Our monthly Rise Series continues to offer intentional spaces for connection, restoration, and creativity. Links and dates are included below – we'd love to have you join us.



Rise & Restore
Wellness and nervous system care
March 8th 6-8pm



Rise & Create
Creative sharing and development
March 26th 6-8p

LADYLIKE ON SPOTIFY

LadyLike is more than showcases – it's a growing platform for conversation, creativity, and visibility. Follow LadyLike on Spotify to stay connected to curated playlists, featured artists, and the voices shaping our community. As we continue building spaces for women in music, Spotify becomes one more way we amplify the sound. Search "LadyLike" on Spotify and follow to stay in the loop.



INTRODUCING

LADYLIKE CHAPTERS

TAMPA BAY & CHARLOTTE CHAPTERS LAUNCHING

LadyLike was never meant to stay small. It began as a conversation – women recognizing there needed to be more space for our voices, our stories, and our artistry. What started as a circle has grown into a movement. And now, that movement is expanding.

We are officially launching two LadyLike chapters:

- LadyLike Tampa Bay
- LadyLike Charlotte

Two cities.

One shared mission.

To elevate women.

To create safe rooms for collaboration.

To build stages that reflect our worth and amplify our voices.

This expansion isn't just about geography – it's about building structure, visibility, and sustainable opportunity for women in music across communities.

If you're interested in learning more about how to start a LadyLike chapter in your area, we'd love to connect. Reach out to our founders at info@joinladylike.com.

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER

March 19th, 7-10p

CROOKED THUMB BREWERY
Safety Harbor, FL

Lineup confirmed: Christina Cullers, Jane Fallon, Cheri Hornsby, Rebekah Pulley, Christin Alynn, Piper Landon, Jenny Lea Brown, Michele McAteer, Rose MG

March Events

CHARLOTTE CHAPTER

March 21st, 7-10p

CONFLUENCE SOUTH FORK
Gastonia, NC

Email info@joinladylike.com to get details on how to apply!

COMING SOON



LADYLIKE unfiltered

In March, LadyLike will launch a new podcast exploring the layered experience of women in music – from artistry and ambition to self-worth and sustainability. Each episode will blend cultural reflection, real conversations, and stories from women building creative lives in real time. Our first series begins with a question: How did we define our worth – and who told us what it was?

Follow us on Spotify and Instagram for updates and early access announcements.

LADYLIKE



www.joinladylike.com

In-Depth Reflections
on

Vivian Maier and *Annie Leibovitz*

by Kathleen Finch

How Did We Get Here?

Simultaneously proud of our accomplishments and yet hiding the light of who we are from the world – this tension sits quietly beneath the surface for many women. It is both ancient and immediate. This Women's History Month, LadyLike invites you to sit with that question: How did we get here? How have women carried brilliance, vision, and strength across generations – sometimes in silence, sometimes in full illumination?

Our first Vivian Maier lived much of her life in Chicago as a nanny, providing stability and warmth to the families she worked for. By all outward appearances, her life was modest and private. Yet for over three decades, she walked the streets with a Rolleiflex camera in hand, documenting the urban human landscape with remarkable depth and sensitivity. Her subjects were often children, the elderly, the working class, and those living on the margins of society. Some were aware of her presence; others were not. Through her lens, she created tens of thousands of images – candid, observant, and quietly powerful.

And she showed almost no one.

After her death in 2009, her work was discovered almost by accident. In 2007, a box of undeveloped film and negatives was purchased at auction from a storage unit sold due to nonpayment. What emerged was extraordinary: over 100,000 negatives, thousands of prints, rolls of undeveloped film, home movies, and audio recordings. The world was introduced to a body of work that many critics would later compare to the great documentary photographers of the twentieth century.

Maier's images reveal a precise eye and an acute sensitivity to human complexity. Her black-and-white compositions feel intimate and immediate. They reflect both grit and grace. Yet the question remains: Why did she keep them hidden? Was it doubt? Protection? Independence? A resistance to commercialization? Or simply a personal choice to create for the sake of creating?

We may never know. What we do know is that her work forces us to confront a quiet truth: brilliance does not require permission to exist, but it does require courage to be seen.



Infamous portrait of
Lennon & Ono

In contrast, consider Annie Leibovitz, whose career unfolded in public view and whose name is synonymous with contemporary portrait photography. Born to a military father and a dancer mother, Leibovitz studied at the San Francisco Art Institute before discovering photography as her primary medium. In 1970, while still a student, she received her first assignment from Rolling Stone magazine. Within three years, she became its chief photographer, shaping the visual identity of rock culture in the 1970s.

Her portrait of John Lennon and Yoko Ono – taken just hours before Lennon's assassination – became one of the most iconic magazine covers in history. Later, at Vanity Fair, Leibovitz broadened her scope to include film stars, athletes, political figures, and cultural icons. Her style is unmistakable: dramatic lighting, vivid color, carefully staged environments, and deeply collaborative sessions that seek to capture not just a face, but a narrative.

Yet visibility did not shield her from struggle. Leibovitz battled addiction during her early career and faced financial and professional pressures throughout her life. She rebuilt, recalibrated, and continued creating. In 1991, she became the first woman and only the second living photographer to exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. Her body of work expanded into advertising, museum exhibitions, and celebrated book collections. She built a legacy not in obscurity, but in full view of the world.

Where Vivian Maier created in silence, Annie Leibovitz created under lights. Both women possessed vision. Both shaped how we see humanity. Both navigated the complexities of being women, artists, and individuals within cultural systems that have not always made room for female authorship. Their lives ask us an essential question: Is our worth diminished if it is unseen, or does it demand expression? Perhaps the answer is not binary. Perhaps there is strength in quiet cultivation and strength in public proclamation. Perhaps our softness is not fragility, but perception. Perhaps our nurturing is not background labor, but foundational architecture. Perhaps our endurance – in obscurity or in spotlight – is itself a form of leadership.

As LadyLike expands into Tampa Bay and Charlotte, this reflection matters. We are building spaces where women do not have to choose between safety and visibility, between humility and power. We are creating rooms where collaboration is not competition, where artistry is not apology, and where worth is not negotiated.

The women who came before us whispered and roared in different ways. Some left behind archives discovered decades later. Others built empires in real time. All of them contributed to the cultural fabric we now inhabit.

So we ask you: How will you carry your light? Will you protect it in private? Will you share it boldly? Or will you find a rhythm uniquely your own? This month, we honor both the hidden genius and the visible force. And we remember that self-worth is not something we earn – it is something we recognize, claim, and embody.

The stage is being built. The rooms are opening. The question is no longer whether we belong.

The question is how we will rise.

march

ICONIC WOMEN OF "HER" STORY

Spotlight on Dynasty

By Cheryl Spainhour



Dynasty exuded joy and coolness when she performed in January at the Lady Like Fest showcase in Charlotte. The rap/hip hop/lyricist feels at home on stage and in the city she moved to in 2023. She's also a newlywed, whose husband attended her show at the Starlight on 22nd and helped with tech. The passionate entrepreneur recently took a breath from her "day gig" to share a few highlights of her career, including her latest venture.

Tell us about your artistic journey

I realized very early on that I love to perform and entertain. My first real show was in the ninth grade, and I haven't stopped since then! Professionally, it's been about 20 years.

I've been very fortunate to tour internationally for many years. I'd say my favorite city is Berlin, Germany. They have a very vibrant hip hop scene and an appreciation for the arts, and they have a train system, which makes it easy to get around.



I've been fortunate to experience tour life, being on TV, on the radio, in magazines. But the biggest highlight has been connecting with so many people through the music - people of all ages and from all walks of life. Some who speak different languages altogether. Music brings people together in a way that few things can, and it's been my greatest joy to meet so many amazing people while performing and doing what I love.

Who has influenced your rap/hip hop, and how?

I'm influenced by artists who are authentic, the ones you believe when you hear them. They don't necessarily influence my sound, but their impact has made it a bit easier to show up fully as myself over the years. Lauryn Hill is one of my favorites, and funny enough, my biggest comparison. Many artists don't like to be compared, but I take that one as a compliment!

Is there a specific goal in your work as an artist that you hope to achieve?

In recent years, I've been doing workshops via my company, DreamPushGO. I help folks use creativity as a catalyst for connection, conversation, and self actualization. I've worked with youth and adults alike, even in corporate spaces, and it's been amazing so far. My goal is to continue to grow and expand the reach and impact, especially at a time where human connection is needed more than ever. Check us out at [DreamPushGO.com](https://www.DreamPushGO.com).

Knowing Your Value Is Different Than Living It

The world feels unstable right now. Economically. Culturally. Socially. There is a constant undercurrent of uncertainty — about money, opportunity, relevance, security. And when the ground feels unsteady, it becomes harder to feel steady in ourselves. It becomes easier to question our value. Easier to accept less. Easier to say, “It’s fine,” when it isn’t. But if we’re honest, this tension around self-worth didn’t begin in this cultural moment. It’s older than that. From the earliest recorded civilizations, women were shifted into roles of caretaker and child bearer while men were positioned as protector and provider. Men’s strength was visible, physical, and later monetized. Women’s strength was relational, emotional, stabilizing — and rarely measured in currency. As societies industrialized, men’s value became increasingly tied to production and income. Women were thrown into crucial roles during times of crisis, yet the deeper value of what women carry — emotional labor, relational intelligence, long-range thinking — was never fully monetized. And we are still negotiating that imbalance. Not because women lack value. But because we have not historically been taught to measure it properly. We often say we are fighting for equality. But I’m not sure equality — at least as it’s commonly defined — is what we’re actually after. Equality is often framed as sameness. The ability to do what men do. The ability to perform at the same level. The ability to compete in the same structures. But women are not lesser versions of men. And men are not emotionally limited by design. We are differently wired contributors. There are things women do that men don’t. There are things men do that women don’t. Beyond biology, there are countless individual strengths shaped by experience, education, and personality. None of us are equal in sameness. That is the beauty of humanity. The question is not whether we can replicate masculinity. The question is whether we are willing to fully embody our own design. And that is where self-worth becomes complicated. Because knowing you are valuable and living like you believe it are two very different things. Intellectually, many of us believe women deserve to be valued. We speak about empowerment. We support other women. We talk about confidence. But behavior reveals belief.

Do we correct someone when they get our name wrong?
Do we lower our rate when someone says they “can’t afford” what we’re worth?
Do we apologizing unnecessarily?
Do we over-explaining ourselves in rooms where we belong?
Instability – economic, cultural, relational – gives us an easy excuse to negotiate against ourselves. Women are often deeply empathetic. We see the broader context. We understand constraints. We want fairness. We value the collective. We don’t want to burden others. We don’t want to be “difficult.” So we say, “It’s FINE.”...When it isn’t. We accept less because we understand the other side. We soften our stance because we can see their struggle. We tell ourselves it’s temporary. But empathy without boundaries becomes self-erasure. And when instability rises, that instinct to self-adjust becomes even stronger. We tell ourselves times are hard, we should be grateful, we’ll ask for more later. But self-worth is not theoretical...It is behavioral. It is not loud...It is steady. It is deciding your value before someone else does. It is thinking strategically and methodically about how you present yourself to the world – and what value you place on yourself versus what value you demand from others. Internal stability does not mean arrogance. It means alignment. Even if the external world remains unstable. If I’m honest, I still wrestle with this. I still fight internal fears – unworthiness, failure, not being enough. And when I ask myself what self-worth looks like in action, or what boundaries needs to be clarified, I don’t always have a clean answer for myself. Maybe that is the real work. Not declaring our worth once. But choosing it over and over again. Maybe self-worth is less about proving something to the world and more about refusing to abandon ourselves in the process. And maybe the most powerful shift isn’t doing it perfectly. It’s not doing it alone. Because what would it mean to stop fighting to be seen in isolation? It would mean community. It would mean women standing behind each other. It would mean strength not as competition, but as collective momentum. We are not on the precipice of discovering our value. We have always had it. The real question is whether we are ready to live like we believe it.

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They are partners in building visibility, equity, and opportunity for women in music. LadyLike collaborates with aligned businesses who believe creative work has value – and who are willing to invest in the communities they serve.



Foundational Global Sponsor

Manifested, LLC is the parent company behind LadyLike and provides ongoing financial and operational support as the brand grows across markets. As a development-focused organization committed to creative leadership and aligned infrastructure, Manifested ensures LadyLike has the strategic backbone necessary for long-term sustainability.

Founding Community Sponsor

Closet Envy Tampa Bay is a high-end custom closet and home organization company serving the greater Tampa area. More than a brand partnership, this support represents a personal investment in the growth of women in music. The Tampa location owner – a fellow musician and advocate for the arts – provided the initial \$1,000 contribution that helped launch LadyLike's Florida programming. That early belief created real momentum. We are grateful for leadership that invests in culture and community.

Visit: <https://www.theclosetenvy.com>



Community Venue Partners

Crooked Thumb Brewing has become a home for LadyLike Community Showcases in Florida. More than a venue, Crooked Thumb has actively invested in women's artistry by providing space and contributing financially to support guaranteed artist pay. Owner Kip Kelly – a fellow singer-songwriter and long-standing influence in the Safety Harbor creative community. Partnerships like this are how community infrastructure is built.

Visit: <https://crookedthumbbrew.com>



Rejuvenate Spa is dedicated to helping clients feel confident, refreshed, and cared for through personalized aesthetic and wellness treatments. Their commitment to self-care, empowerment, and supporting local community initiatives aligns beautifully with LadyLike's mission to uplift women and create meaningful spaces for connection and growth. We are proud to partner with businesses that invest in both beauty and community.

Visit <https://www.rejuvenatelakewylie.com>



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