

basketball. Larry Racioppo's snapshots of 1990s New York streetball courts transport us to a time when the city's playgrounds were the proving grounds for the next generation of legends. And Adam Jason Cohen's *Fundamentals* project offers a deeply moving visual narrative of Chicago's basketball soul, where the sport is more than just a game. This book will introduce you to them, and so many other great photographers.

Then there are the visionaries who redefine what a basketball court can be. Project Backboard transforms worn-out courts into vibrant community spaces, proving that a fresh coat of paint can rejuvenate both a court and the spirits of those who play on it. Yinka Ilori's colorful 3×3 court in London turns an ordinary space into a work of public art. Sébastien Michelini's redesign of the Pigalle Duperré Court in Paris merges bold color gradients with urban architecture, creating a dreamlike space where every game feels like a masterpiece. They, too, are in this book.

As are painters, sculptors, and designers, inspired by the game and universally creative. Basketball and art both require vision. Both thrive on innovation. Both tell stories that transcend time, space, and cultural boundaries. In these pages, you will see how artists transform basketball into something more than a game. You will see how a sport with simple rules—just a hoop, a ball, and a passion for play—becomes a muse, an obsession, and, ultimately, an art form of its own. Basketball has become a lingua franca for expressing resilience and hope, whether in the urban sprawls of the United States or in bustling metropolises halfway around the globe. Community centers, local leagues, and international tournaments have turned the sport into a unifying force, breaking down barriers of language, culture, and socioeconomic status. It is here that the ideals of teamwork and perseverance are celebrated, and the stories of everyday players are as significant as those of the stars.

The legacy of players like Stephon Marbury serves as a testament to the enduring global impact of New York City's basketball culture, ensuring that the city will remain the spiritual home of the sport for generations to come.

Please remember that as you read this book. Enjoy the journey.

