

After Moses Williams

Contemporary Profile Studies · 2026

Cut · Not Drawn

Moses Williams (1777 – c.1825) was born to enslaved parents in the household of Charles Willson Peale and became, at Peale's Philadelphia Museum, one of the earliest professional silhouettists working the physiognotrace. He cut the city's face for a living, and bought his freedom with the scissors.

After Moses Williams is a contemporary re-reading of that instrument. Ten profile studies — rap, pop, power, and predation — are cut against a simulated tobacco cloth: a ground whose color and grain remember what the American profile has been financed by.

The silhouette is not decoration. It is a decision about which line the sitter is willing to be reduced to when the record is done with them. In these studies the line is cut, not drawn — Williams's method, tested against contemporary faces the country would rather see rendered.

SERIES

After Moses Williams

MEDIUM

AI-assisted digital silhouette on simulated tobacco cloth, 2026

STUDIES

Ten profiles + Contact Sheet

LINEAGE

Peale · Williams · physiognotrace

ARTIST

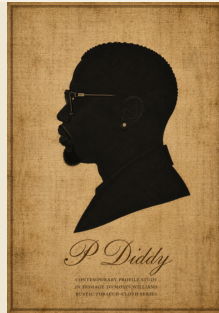
Allen Redwing

Ten Profiles and a Sheet

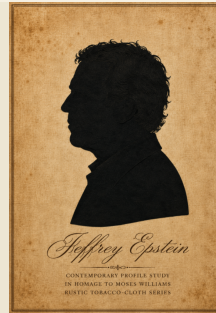
The contact sheet indexes the whole; each plate isolates a face.



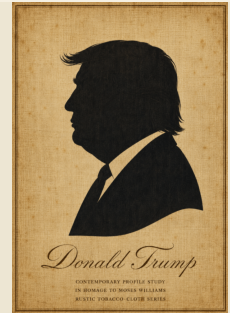
I
After Moses Williams · Contact Sheet



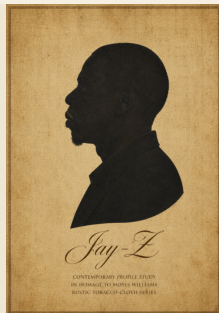
II
P. Diddy



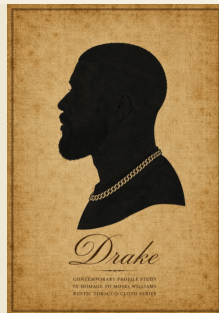
III
Jeffrey Epstein



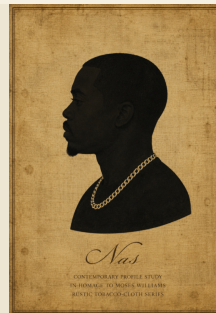
IV
Donald Trump



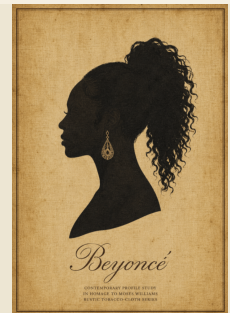
V
Jay-Z



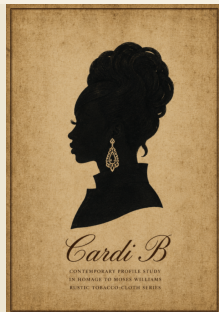
VI
Drake



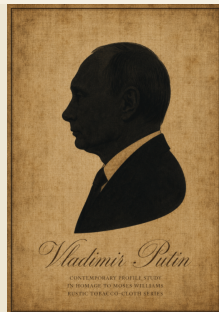
VII
Nas



VIII
Beyoncé



IX
Cardi B



X
Vladimir Putin



PLATE I
After Moses Williams · Contact Sheet

Twelve profile studies

Twelve profiles cut against tobacco cloth, indexed on a single sheet. The physiognotrace as contemporary instrument.

TWELVE AI-ASSISTED DIGITAL SILHOUETTES ON SIMULATED TOBACCO CLOTH, 2026

After Moses Williams · Contact Sheet

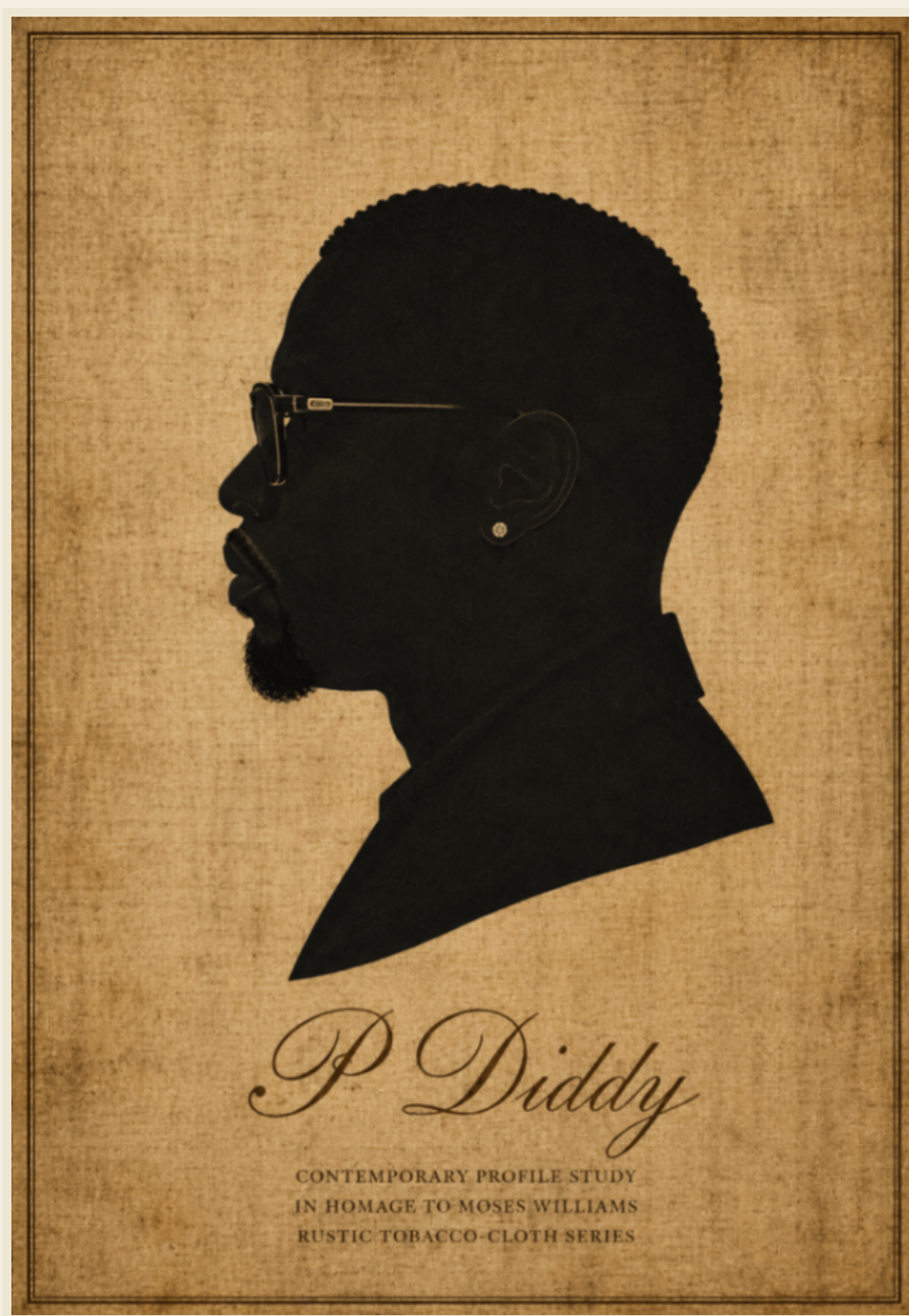


PLATE II
P. Diddy

Profile Study

A profile cut where celebrity, wealth, and the record of harm are pressed into one silhouette.

AI-ASSISTED DIGITAL SILHOUETTE ON SIMULATED TOBACCO CLOTH, FROM THE SERIES AFTER MOSES WILLIAMS, 2026

P. Diddy

II

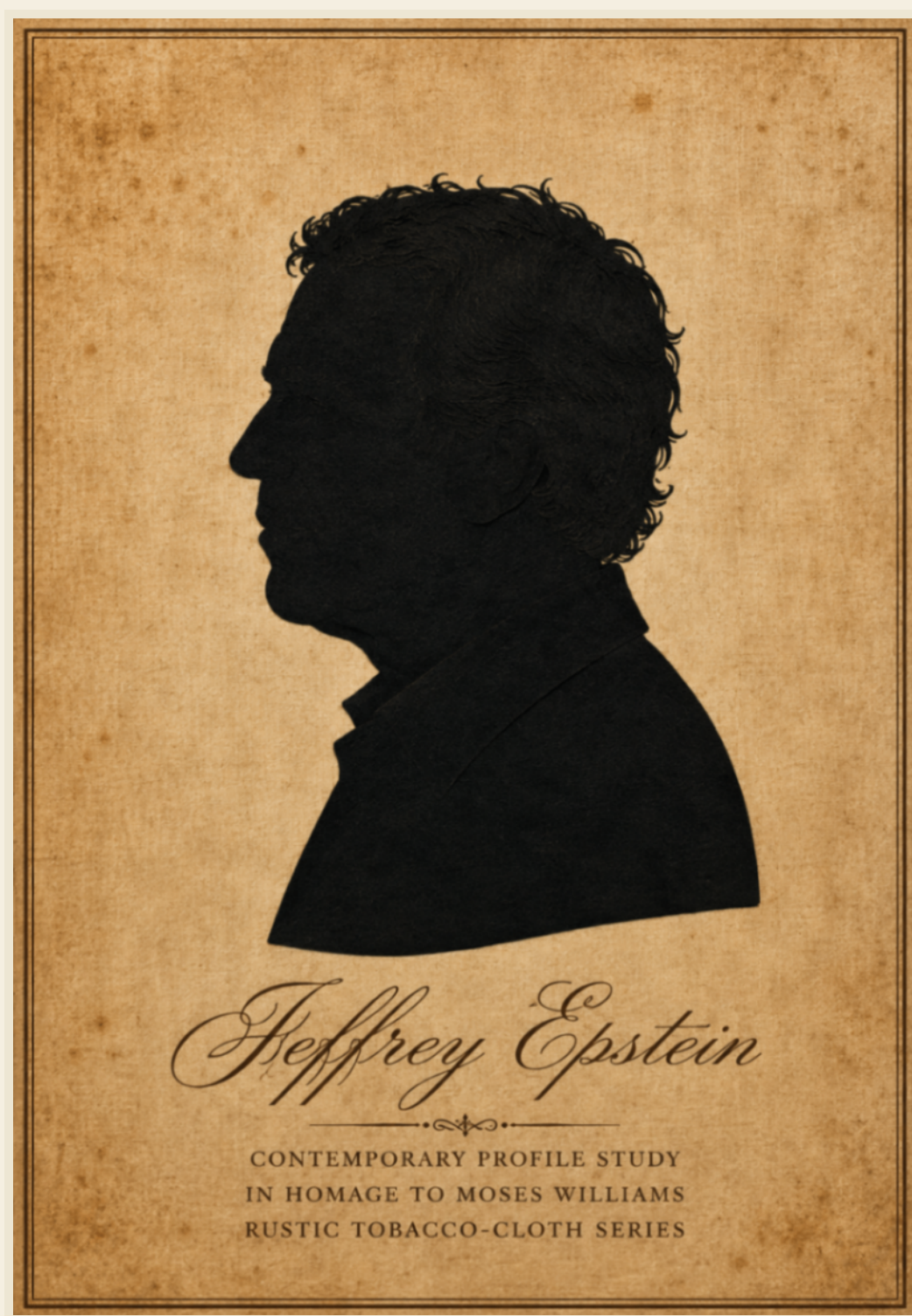


PLATE III

Jeffrey Epstein

Profile Study

The predator profile — the silhouette forced to name what the archive knows.

AI-ASSISTED DIGITAL SILHOUETTE ON SIMULATED TOBACCO CLOTH, FROM THE SERIES AFTER MOSES WILLIAMS, 2026

Jeffrey Epstein

III

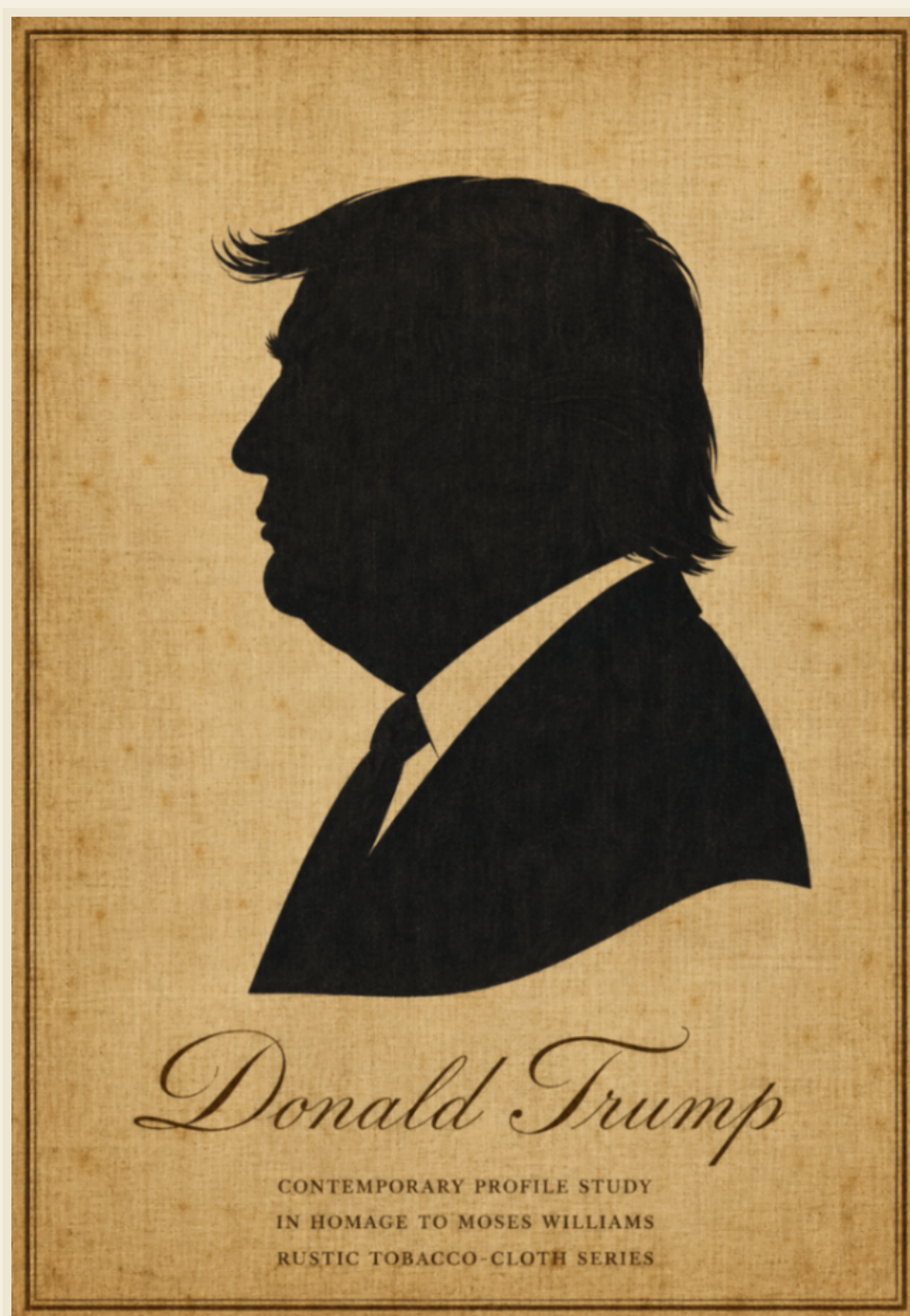


PLATE IV
Donald Trump

Profile Study

Power profiled — the head-line drawn as if from a coin.

AI-ASSISTED DIGITAL SILHOUETTE ON SIMULATED TOBACCO CLOTH, FROM THE SERIES AFTER MOSES WILLIAMS, 2026

Donald Trump

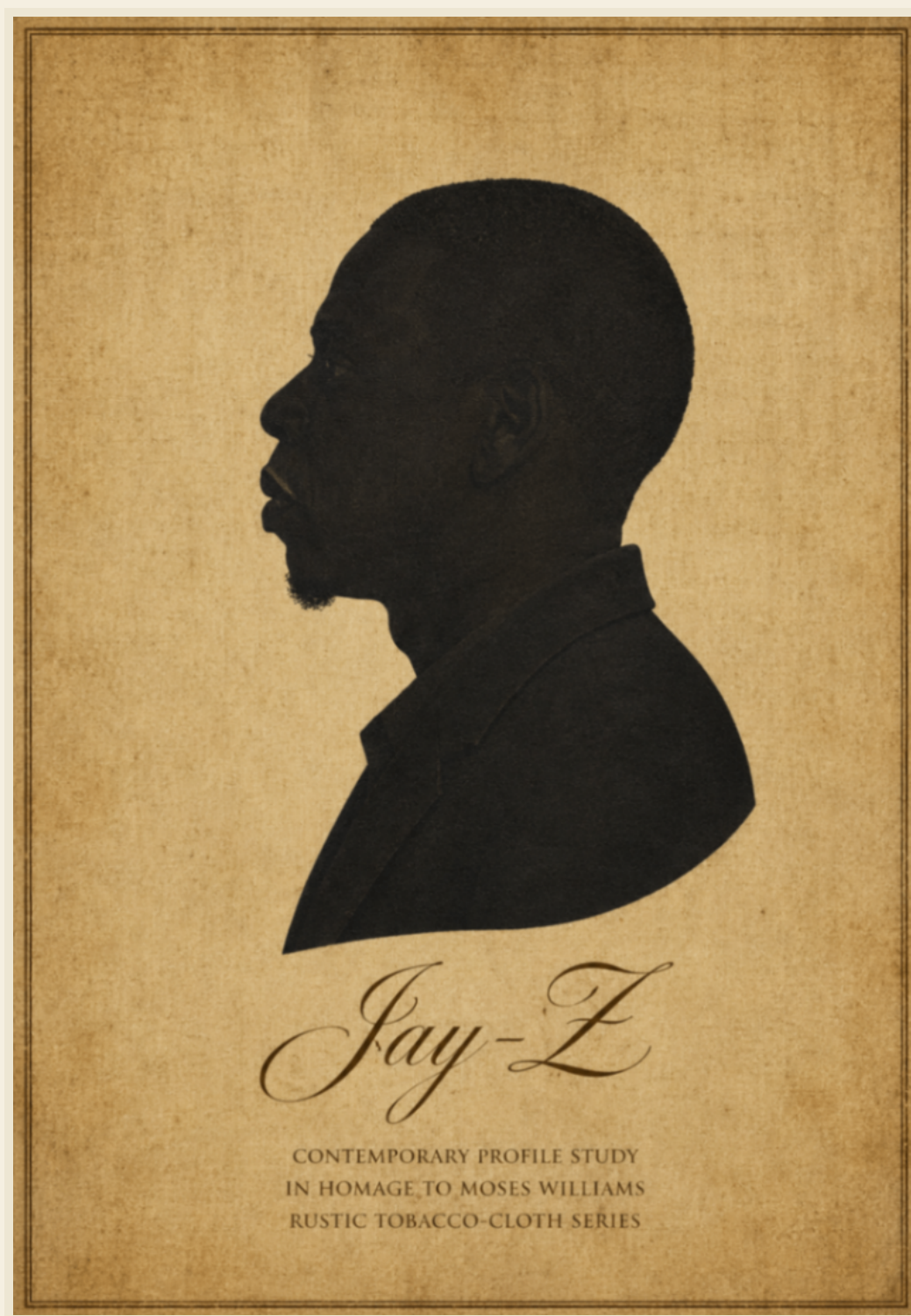


PLATE V
Jay-Z

Profile Study

The mogul in silhouette — Brooklyn to boardroom
held in a single cut.

AI-ASSISTED DIGITAL SILHOUETTE ON SIMULATED TOBACCO CLOTH, FROM THE SERIES AFTER MOSES WILLIAMS, 2026

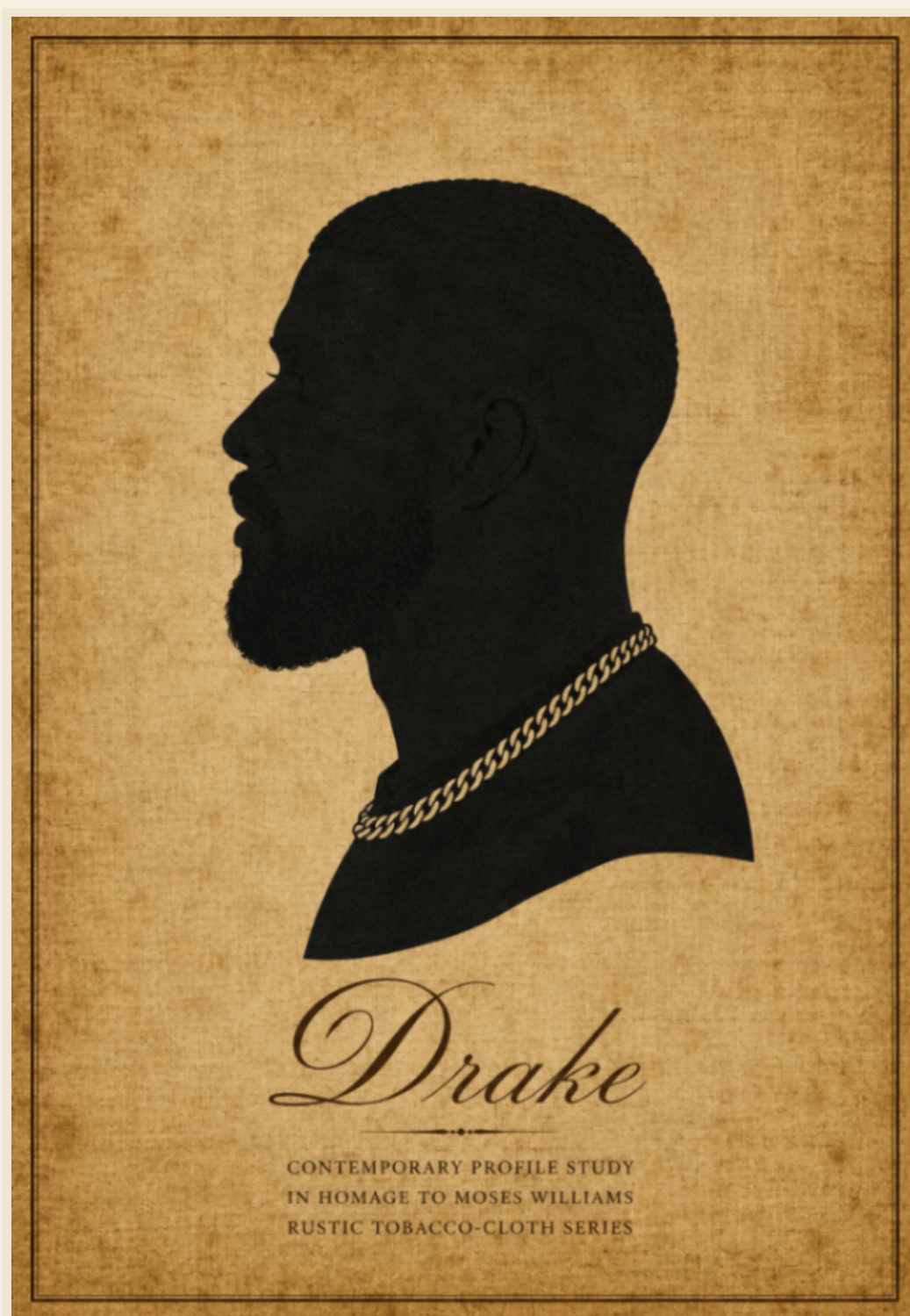


PLATE VI
Drake

Profile Study

The pop profile — softened line, contemporary crown.

AI-ASSISTED DIGITAL SILHOUETTE ON SIMULATED TOBACCO CLOTH, FROM THE SERIES AFTER MOSES WILLIAMS, 2026

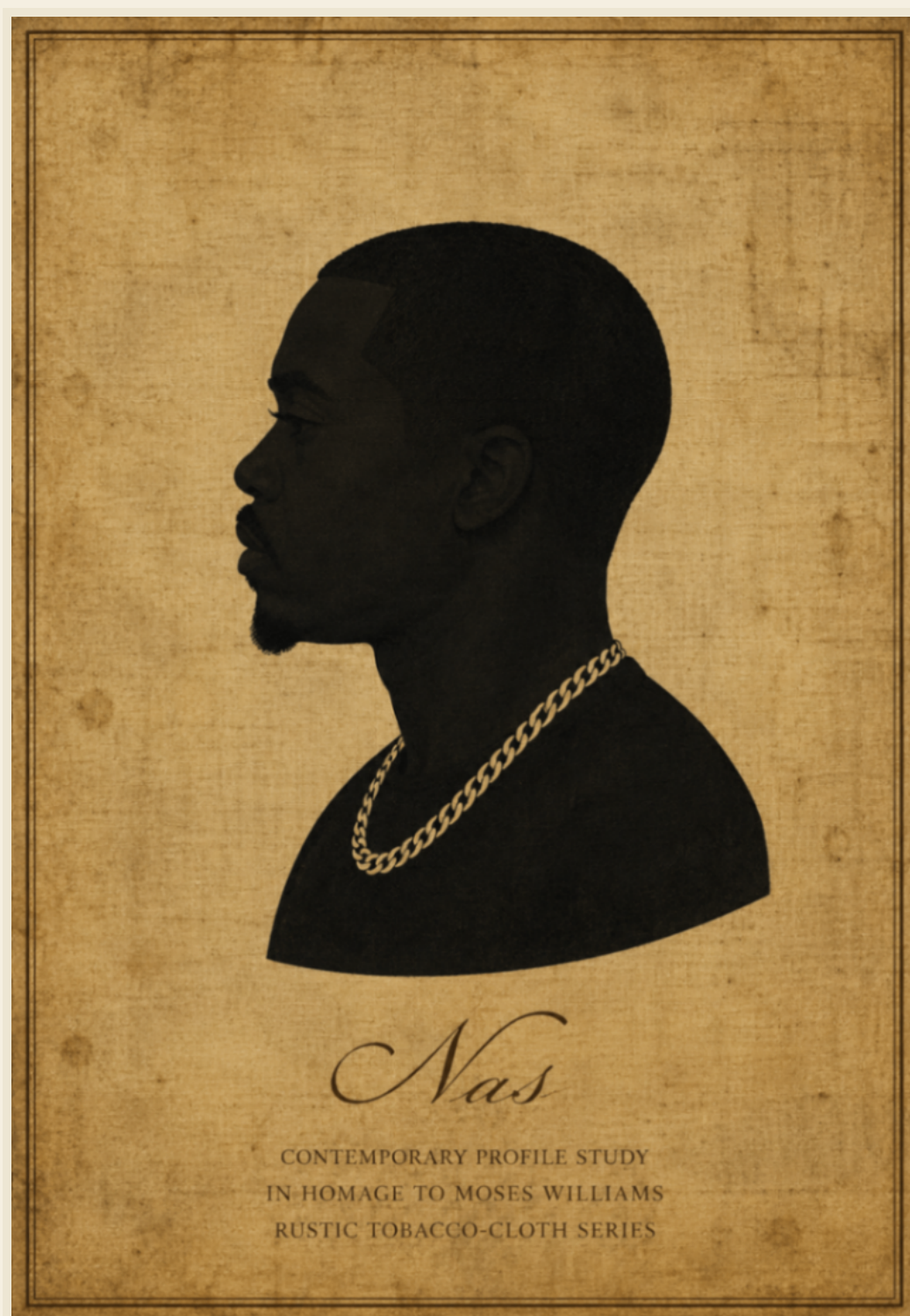


PLATE VII

Nas

Profile Study

The poet in profile — Queens read from the ear line down.

AI-ASSISTED DIGITAL SILHOUETTE ON SIMULATED TOBACCO CLOTH, FROM THE SERIES AFTER MOSES WILLIAMS, 2026

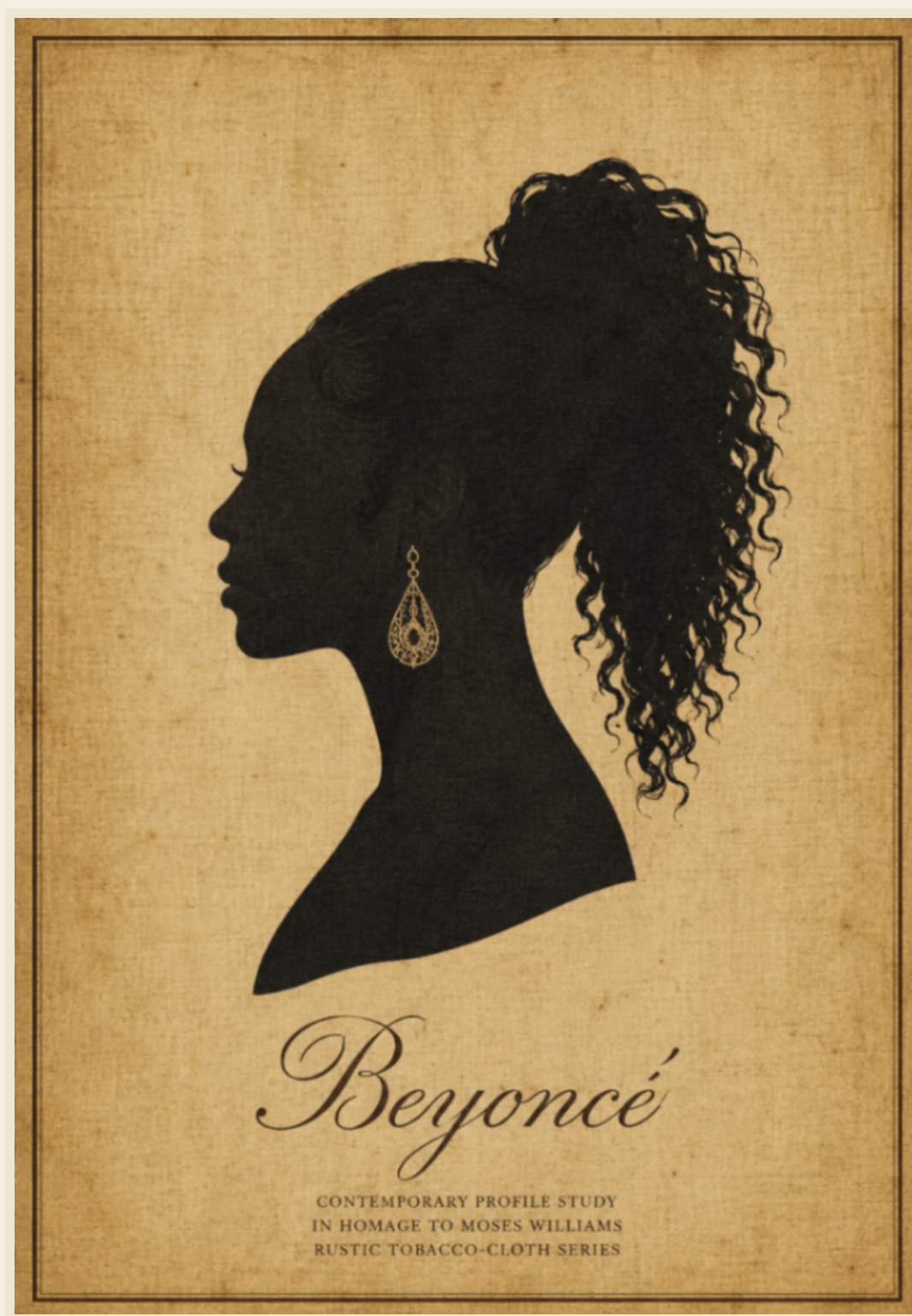


PLATE VIII
Beyoncé

Profile Study

The Queen profiled — silhouette as ceremony.

AI-ASSISTED DIGITAL SILHOUETTE ON SIMULATED TOBACCO CLOTH, FROM THE SERIES AFTER MOSES WILLIAMS, 2026

Beyoncé

VIII

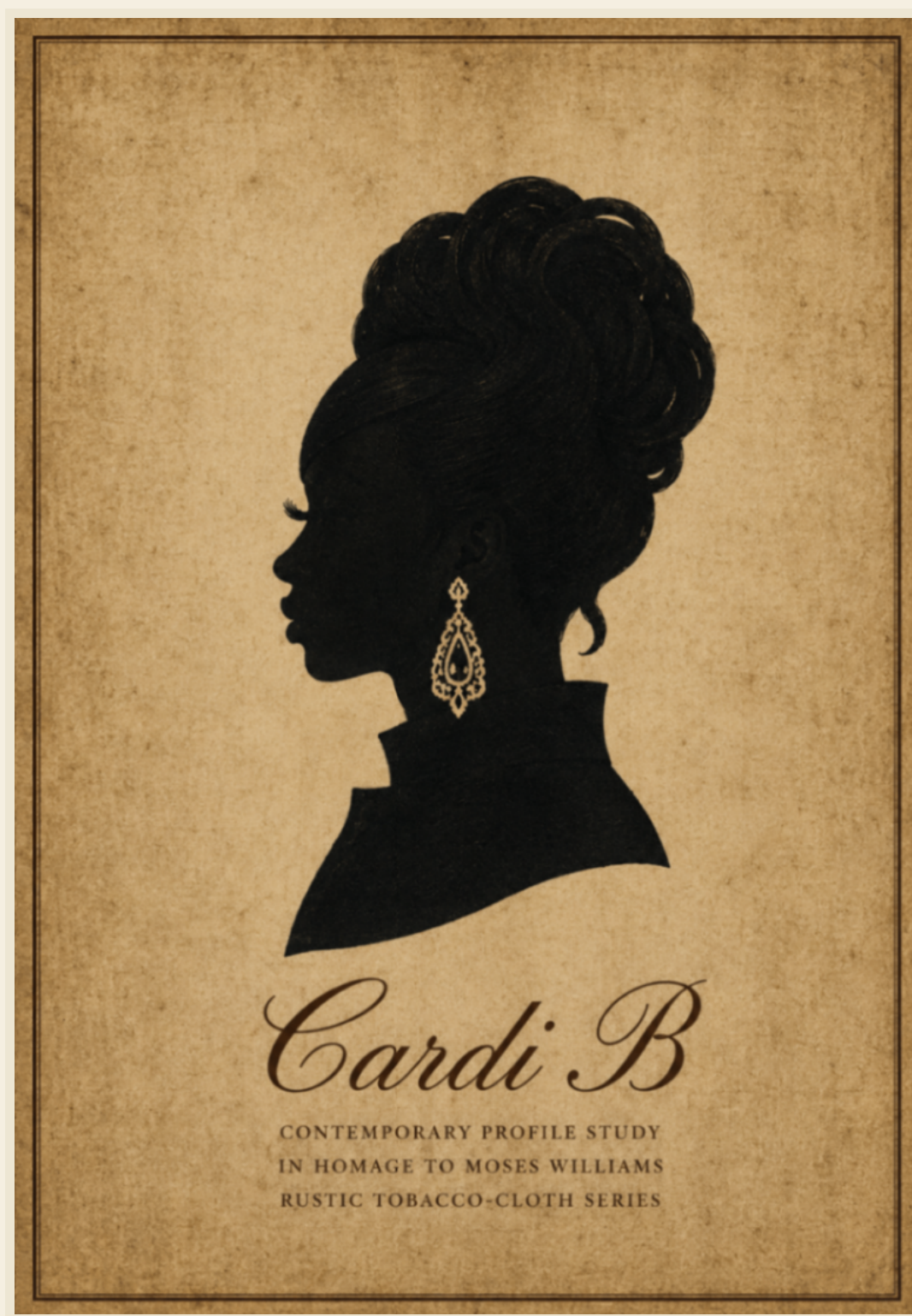


PLATE IX
Cardi B

Profile Study

The Bronx in profile — the line refuses softness.

AI-ASSISTED DIGITAL SILHOUETTE ON SIMULATED TOBACCO CLOTH, FROM THE SERIES AFTER MOSES WILLIAMS, 2026

Cardi B

IX

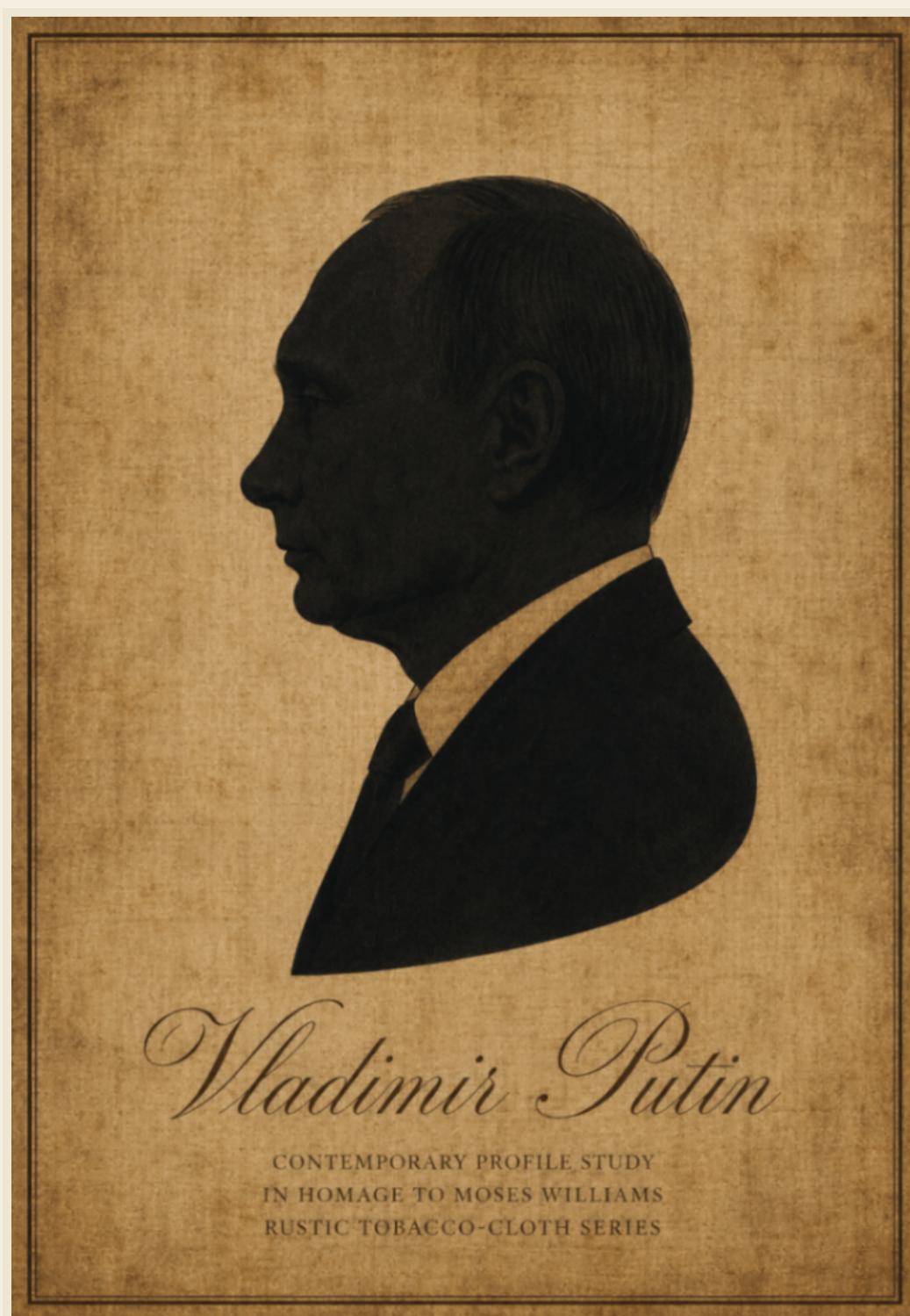


PLATE X

Vladimir Putin

Profile Study

Statecraft in silhouette — the profile as coin, as sanction, as warning.

AI-ASSISTED DIGITAL SILHOUETTE ON SIMULATED TOBACCO CLOTH, FROM THE SERIES AFTER MOSES WILLIAMS, 2026

Vladimir Putin

X

Glossary — In Plain Language

Terms used in this catalog, defined in plain language for collectors and stewards.

PHYSIOGNOTRACE

A mechanical drawing device used in the early 1800s to trace a sitter's profile onto paper for cutting.

TOBACCO CLOTH

Coarse cotton sheeting historically used to shade tobacco fields — here, the simulated ground the profiles are cut against.

SERIES

A group of works held together by one question or one idea, made and read as a set.

EDITION

How many prints of one image exist. A small edition means fewer copies in the world.

ARCHIVAL

Made to last generations without fading — acid-free paper, pigment inks, careful handling.

PROVENANCE

The record of who made a work, who has owned it, and where it has been shown.

COLOPHON

The production note at the end of a book — the fonts, paper, dates, and contact behind how it was made.

SILHOUETTE

A profile portrait rendered as a single continuous outline — traditionally cut from black paper.

PLATE

A single numbered artwork in a series (I, II, III ...). Think of it as one page of the exhibition.

CYCLE

A series meant to be walked through in order — beginning, middle, end — like a song cycle.

GICLÉE

A high-quality inkjet print on fine-art paper. The standard for archival photographic reproduction.

CONTACT SHEET

Small thumbnails of every image in a series laid out on one page — a visual index.

SITTER

The person in a portrait — the one being pictured, whether present or reconstructed from the record.

Colophon

After Moses Williams is a ten-plate silhouette series by Allen Redwing, made in 2026 in dialogue with Moses Williams (1777 – c.1825), Peale Museum silhouettist and freedman.

Each plate is an AI-assisted digital silhouette on simulated tobacco cloth. Editions and print sizes available on request. Curators and researchers may request the working archive.

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Allen Redwing
aredwing@black-boi.com
allenredwing.studio
Memphis, Tennessee

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