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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

ART GALLERIES – DOWNTOWN

Elliott Jerome Brown, Jr.

This young artist's titles are poetic companions to his lyrical photographs. "Syllables of joy and devastation" portrays a young person lounging in bed, regarding the camera with almost closed eyes. Neither posed nor candid, the shot captures an attitude of trusting indifference—an air of true intimacy. Many of Brown's subjects are shown from behind, a perspective that might come off as voyeuristic, but instead seems deferential to their privacy. In "Oftentimes, justice for black people takes the form of forgiveness, allowing them space to reclaim their bodies from wrongs made against them," a woman sits in church as comforting hands reach out to rest on both sides of her back. The point of view implies that Brown is attending the service, too.

— *Johanna Fateman*