Kehinde Wiley Studio  Wiley Instagram  Wiley at Roberts Projects  Wiley at Sean Kelly Gallery

Listen to a 2008 interview with Wiley in conjunction with the National Portrait Gallery’s exhibition, RECOGNIZE! Hip Hop and Contemporary Portraiture, which was recently transcribed by the Smithsonian Digital Volunteers Transcription Center.

Read an article in New York Magazine about Wiley’s Beijing studio, which the artist set up in 2006.

Watch a video interview with Artnet and Wiley from 2015 about New York, the art world, and being stylish.

In 2015, Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic was organized by the Brooklyn Museum as a major mid-career retrospective. The exhibition featured sixty works spanning fourteen years and traveled to the Seattle Art Museum, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and the Phoenix Art Museum. Read a review in the New York Times by Roberta Smith and listen to an NPR story connected with the major exhibition.


In 2018, Wiley was on Time’s Top 100 List of Most Influential People.

In 2017, Wiley was commissioned to paint the National Portrait Gallery’s presidential portrait of Barack Obama. Read a New Yorker article by Vinson Cunningham, “Kehinde Wiley on Painting Masculinity and Blackness, from President Obama to the People of Ferguson.” Artnet also published an article with “3 Things You Might Not Know About [the Obama Portrait]” when it was traveling with its sister painting, Amy Sherald’s portrait of Michelle Obama. The Obama Portraits Tour began at the Art Institute of Chicago in 2021 and traveled institutions including the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the High Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the de Young Museum, and LACMA.


In 2021, the National Gallery in London launched the exhibition Kehinde Wiley: The Prelude. Read interviews about his “pandemic portraits” on display and “what it feels like to be young, Black, and alive in the 21st century.” The Art Newspaper’s podcast A Brush With… also featured an interview with Wiley in anticipation of the exhibition, the artist’s first collaboration with a major gallery in the UK.

Read a 2022 interview with Wiley for Juxtapoz Magazine, which featured the artist on its Fall 2022 cover.
Kehinde Wiley (American, b. 1977)

*Portrait of Kaysy J. Gotay II*, 2022

Oil on linen

Private Collection; L2022:100.1

“What is portraiture? It’s a choice. It’s the ability to position your body in the world to celebrate you on your own terms.” Kehinde Wiley adapts the heroic style of European portraiture and Old Master paintings to contemporary Black figures. Perhaps best known for his presidential portrait of former President Barack Obama, Wiley also features people he meets on the streets of New York and Los Angeles. *Portrait of Kaysy J. Gotay II* presents the subject as confident and self-assured, standing in a highly detailed garden setting. Like many of Wiley’s works that engage with the complexities of post-colonial identity, race, and visual culture, the composition is inspired by historical materials. In this painting, the surrounding pattern is from an Indian design reproduced in a 1735 book entitled *Book of Chinese Design taken from the originals of Persia, of the Indies, of China and of Japan* by Jean Antoine Fraisse.

*On view December 7, 2022 – March 12, 2023*