

BLACK | ROCK

COVID-19 UPDATES

We are happy to be able to share a bit of good news from Senegal and to send our most heartfelt well-wishes to you and your loved ones.



BLACK ROCK SENEGAL DONATES 700 MASKS IN DAKAR.

We are proud to announce our partnerships with Dr. Abdou Karim Diop, director of the Centre de Santé Philippe Senghor Yoff and head of the West Health District of Dakar, and with the Association des Femmes de la Cité Biagui et Toundourya (AFBET) for the donation of 700 masks to combat the spread of COVID-19 in Senegal.

Black Rock has provided N-95 masks to Dr. Abdou Karim Diop for use in the Centre de Santé Philippe Senghor Yoff, a hospital center located in the Yoff district of Dakar.

Partnering with Black Rock artist Devin Johnson, we have designed and produced a series of custom-made masks that have been fabricated by local tailors Mbor N'diaye, Pape Seck and Djiby Gueye at their workshop based in Ker Massar, Dakar. These artist-designed masks have been donated to the AFBET for distribution to underserved women and children. Created in 1988, the AFBET is now composed of 90 members who organize bi-monthly events and initiatives throughout the city.



Throughout this quarantine, it has been our priority to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our residents and staff. Black Rock remains open with reduced operations in adherence to COVID-19 restrictions, offering asylum to the resident artists and friends who found themselves unable to leave the country due to ongoing COVID-19 travel bans.

While the landscapes of our lives have changed, we are all lucky to be healthy and safe, and to keep our studios open. We remain dedicated to our mission and are more excited than ever to share with you the incredible stories and work that have developed out of this unusual year along with our upcoming initiatives for Year 2! Applications for Black Rock Year 2 will be made available soon.

INFORMATION ABOUT US

Black Rock is a multi-disciplinary artist residency program founded by artist Kehinde Wiley.



ABOUT BLACK ROCK SENEGAL

Named for the volcanic rocks that blanket its shoreline, Black Rock is a residency program created by renowned artist Kehinde Wiley which seeks to incite change in the global discourse around West Africa in the context of creative evolution. The residency brings together international artists to live and work in Dakar, Senegal for 1-3 month stays. The Black Rock compound design was conceived by Senegalese architect Abib Djenne with interior collaboration between Wiley, Fatiya Djenne, and Aissa Dione. The complex includes a residence and studio space for Wiley along with three single-occupancy residency apartments with adjacent studio spaces.

ABOUT KEHINDE WILEY

Kehinde Wiley (b. 1977, Los Angeles) is a world-renowned visual artist, best known for his vibrant portrayals of contemporary African-American and African-Diasporic individuals that subvert the hierarchies and conventions of European and American portraiture. Working in the mediums of painting, sculpture, and video, Wiley's portraits challenge and reorient art-historical narratives, awakening complex sociopolitical issues that many would prefer remain muted. In 2018 Wiley became the first African-American artist to paint an official U.S. Presidential portrait for the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. Former U.S. President Barack Obama selected Wiley for this honor. In 2019, the artist debuted his first large-scale public sculpture in TimesSquare, New York, a bronze equestrian monument honoring the heroism of young black men in America. In 2020 Wiley received France's distinction of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters. Wiley has held solo exhibitions throughout the United States and internationally and his works are included in the collections of over 40 public institutions around the world. Wiley is the Founder and President of Black Rock Senegal. He lives and works in Beijing, Dakar, and New York.

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