

BLACK | ROCK

YEAR 1 COMES TO AN END

We are thrilled to have hosted 15 artists over the past 9 months and to have so many new friends.



This has been a remarkable year for Black Rock. We opened our doors May 26th 2019, sharing Kehinde Wiley's magnificent vision with our friends from near and far. In August 2019 we launched the inaugural year of the Black Rock Senegal artist residency, welcoming the first 3 artists to live and make work on the compound. As of today, we have hosted 15 artists working in literature, multimedia, painting, photography, sculpture and textiles.

In October 2019 we also launched our [collaboration with Absolut Art](#), releasing our first-ever benefit print for Black Rock, Kehinde Wiley's "Head of a Young Girl Veiled" (2019). In December 2019 we partnered with [Creative Minds Talks](#) to kick off Miami Art Week with a program featuring Kehinde Wiley and Swizz Beatz in an intimate discussion about art, philanthropy, and creative evolution.

However the real story has been told every day, through the friendships, conversations, and collaborations that have developed between our artists, our staff, and our community both near and far. We have cooked together; weaved together; travelled together; laughed together; shared techniques, favorite books, favorite music, weirdest stories, and even worst fears. Some of us are Senegalese, some of us spent our first days in Africa this year, while others of us still have yet to get there in person but are with us in spirit and mission. Together we are stronger.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENTHUSIASM, PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT!

This spring has offered us increased time for reflection, and we are tremendously grateful for the generous support and welcome that we received from people across the world over the course of our first year. We offer our deepest gratitude to our visionary founder Kehinde Wiley, our invaluable selection committee, the resident artists who are the very heart of what we do, and all the friends we've made along the way. **Thank you for joining us in our mission. You are what makes our program possible.**

YEAR 1 ARTISTS INCLUDE:

Tunji Adeniyi-Jones (UK, Painting), Laurence Bonvin (Switzerland, Film), Sonya Clark (USA, Sculpture), Yagazie Emezi (Nigeria, Photography), Nona Faustine (USA, Photography), Devin B. Johnson (USA, Painting), Heather Jones (USA, Textiles), Grace Lynne (USA, Painting), Zanoxolo Sylvester Mqeku (South Africa, Sculpture), Kelechi Njoku (Nigeria, Writing), Kambui Olujimi (USA, Mixed Media), Zohra Opoku (Ghana, Mixed Media), Rafael RG (Brazil, Mixed Media), Tajh Rust (USA, Painting) and Ytasha Womack (USA, Writing). We look forward to hosting Chelsea Odufu (USA, Film) when it is safe to do so. More information on each artist is available [here](#) and on our [website](#).

OUR ESTEEMED SELECTION COMMITTEE INCLUDES:

Swizz Beatz, Artist; Thelma Golden, Director, Studio Museum in Harlem; Thomas Lax, Curator, The Museum of Modern Art; Christine Riding, Head of the Curatorial Department, The National Gallery; Mickalene Thomas, Artist; and Carrie Mae Weems, Artist.

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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