



BLACK ROCK SENEGAL ANNOUNCES OFFICIAL SELECTION OF ARTISTS FOR 2021

DAKAR, Senegal, February 2, 2021— Black Rock Senegal today announced the 2021 participants for the second year of its Artist-in-Residence program. Founded by renowned artist Kehinde Wiley in 2019, Black Rock Senegal seeks to support new artistic creation through collaborative exchange and to incite change in the global discourse about Africa. The second year of the program will run between February and December 2021.

The selected artists for Black Rock 2021 are: **Tyna Adebowale** (Nigeria, Mixed Media), **Abbesi Akhamie** (Germany, Film), **Delali Ayivor** (Ghana, Writing), **Hilary Balu** (DR Congo, Painting), **Mbali Dhlamini** (South Africa, Mixed Media), **Abdi Farah** (USA, Painting), **Moses Hamborg** (USA, Painting), **Arinze Ifeakandu** (Nigeria, Writing), **Cristiano Mangovo** (Angola, Painting/ Sculpture/ Installation/ Performance), **Esmaa Mohamoud** (Canada, Sculpture/ Installation), **Katherina Olschbaur** (Austria, Painting), **Irene Antonia Diane Reece** (USA, Photography), **Curtis Talwst Santiago** (Canada, Mixed Media), **Darryl DeAngelo Terrell** (USA, Photography), and **Stephanie J. Woods** (USA, Mixed Media).

This year's residents have been selected by an esteemed committee of creative professionals: **Sir David Adjaye OBE**, Architect; **Amoako Bofo**, Artist; **Naomi Campbell**, Model and Activist; **Yagazie Emezi**, Artist and 2019 Black Rock Senegal Resident; **Christine Kim**, Curator, LACMA; and **Anne Pasternak**, Director, The Brooklyn Museum.

Kehinde Wiley said, "I am thrilled to invite the next class of artists to join me in Dakar. Each is pushing the possibilities of representation in a unique way, together exploring a range of perspectives that span the globe."

In light of circumstances related to COVID-19, we are currently operating with increased precautionary measures in place to meet the shifting needs of the ongoing global pandemic. Throughout this period of quarantine it has been our priority to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our residents, staff, and neighbors, and we continue to work closely with local and international officials to adhere to recommended guidelines. Black Rock remains open with reduced operations in adherence to COVID-19 restrictions, offering a safe place for artists to live and create work during these unprecedented and challenging times.

2021 ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Tyna Adebowale (b. Igarra, Nigeria; currently lives and works in Amsterdam, The Netherlands) is a multimedia artist. She has a background in painting, but her current works have expanded to installations and videos. She employs art as a powerful tool for social change. Her works explore issues bordering on gender, sexual orientation, and politics in contemporary Nigerian society, using Nigeria to also mirror other societies with similar stories. In 2017 she came to Amsterdam for a two-year residency at Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam, where she currently lives.

Abbesi Akhamie (b. 1991 in Heidelberg, Germany; currently lives and works in Washington, D.C., USA) is a Nigerian-American writer/director and producer. Akhamie received her MFA in Film from New York University and also holds a BA in Communications from George Mason University. Her work is inspired by her bicultural heritage with a focus on African and diasporan cultures and experiences. Her debut short film, *Still Water Runs Deep* (2017) premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and won Best Student Short Film at Aspen ShortsFest. Her latest short film, *The Couple Next Door* (2020), premiered at Aspen ShortsFest and won the Audience Choice Award at the Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival. Currently, she is developing her debut feature film, *In My Father's House*, a coming-of-age drama that follows a young woman as she discovers her place of belonging in the homeland of her estranged father. The project will be filmed in Nigeria and has graciously been supported by NYSCA/NYFA Individual Artist Grant, TIFF Filmmaker Lab, and the Attagurl Residency program. When she is not diligently working on film, she enjoys watching films. Her favorite film of 2019 was the Senegalese mystical-drama, *Atlantics*, by Mati Diop.

Delali Ayivor (b. 1992 in Houston, Texas, USA; currently lives and works between Brooklyn, New York, USA and Accra, Ghana) is a Ghanaian-American writer. As a contemporary postcolonial subject, Ayivor creates from the locus of disjuncture, writing through the complexifying tangles of our increasingly globalized world. Ayivor is a 2011 U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, a 2020 and 2021 Tin House Summer Workshop Scholar, a former associate artist-in-residence with experimental sound poet Tracie Morris at Atlantic Center for the Arts in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and an attendee of the 2019 Tin House Winter Workshop—with author Hanif Abdurraqib—in Newport, Oregon. In Spring 2019 she was named the inaugural writer-in-residence at the STONELEAF Retreat in Kingston, New York. She has moderated discussion at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, New York as part of their Works & Process series and delivered a closing keynote speech at Americans for the Arts' 2014 Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Her work has been published most recently online by The Rumpus and CovenBerlin. She is currently a dual Masters candidate in Library, Information and Archival Sciences at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC.

Hilary Balu (b. 1992 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo; currently lives and works in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo) is a graduate of the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Kinshasa and is represented by MAGNIN-A gallery in Paris, France. His work focuses on his culture, country, and more broadly on the history of the African continent and aesthetic codes of Western art. His paintings bear witness to the transformation of African society caused by globalization and consumerism. Present in most of his works is the “Nkisi Mangaaka,” an ancestral divinatory sculpture which is the symbol of a collective memory now neglected in favor of new symbols of capitalism. In his latest series, *Voyage vers Mars*, Balu metaphorically stages the tragedy of contemporary migration—in this case the flight of a population to another continent like astronauts leaving a destroyed earth to go to another planet. His work has been presented in numerous international exhibitions such as at AKA art fair in Paris, France in 2020; *In-discipline*, presented by the Montresso Foundation at 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Marrakech, Morocco 2019; *Fiction Congo* in 2019 at the Rietberg Museum, Zürich, Switzerland; *Congo Stars* in 2018 at the Kunsthaus Graz, Graz, Austria; and *Kinshasa Chroniques*

installed in 2018 at the International Museum of Modest Arts in Sète, France and which will be presented at the Cité de l'Architecture & du Patrimoine on October 14, 2020. He has participated in several residencies with prestigious institutions, including the Montresso Foundation in Marrakech, Morocco, the Atelier Solar in Madrid, Spain, the Pro Helvetia residency in Geneva, Switzerland and the University of Johannesburg in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mbali Dhlamini (b. 1990 in Johannesburg, South Africa; currently lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa) is a multidisciplinary artist, artistic researcher and coordinator. Dhlamini performs visual, tactile and discursive investigations into current indigenous cultural practices. With a view towards decolonized practices in contemporary culture, her work is in constant conversation with her past and present visual landscapes. Working to maintain a state of unlearning and relearning, her process recognizes language as a medium of understanding and as a repository of knowledge.

Abdi Farah (b. 1987 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA; currently lives and works in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA) began his art education at the Carver Center for Arts and Technology in Towson, Maryland. Farah received his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 2009, graduating with honors. Farah has been fortunate to exhibit art across the country and internationally at institutions including: the Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland; the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Margulies Collection, Miami, Florida; The Institute for American Universities in Aix En Provence, France; the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York; the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, Louisiana; and the Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans, Louisiana. Farah is a 2005 Presidential Scholar in the Arts, a recipient of the Ellen Battell Stoeckel Fellowship through the Yale Norfolk School of Music and Art, and a 2017 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture participant. In 2018 Farah received his MFA in painting from Tulane University in New Orleans where he continues to live and work.

Moses Hamborg (b. Orange County, California, USA; currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California, USA) is a fine artist who was born and raised in Huntington Beach, California. In 2014 he moved to Italy to learn the techniques of the Old Masters. After graduating from the Florence Academy of Art he was awarded the Artist in Residence position. Following his residency he took on portrait commissions in Europe and the US. He furthered his classical training at Charles H. Cecil Studios. In addition to exhibiting in group shows and having work in private collections across Europe and the United States, Moses also has work in the permanent collections of the New Salem Museum of Art, USA and the Manifattura Tabacchi, Italy. Moses was awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the Portrait Society of America in 2019 and exhibited in BP Portrait Award 2020 at the National Portrait Gallery, London.

Arinze Ifeakandu (b. 1995 in Kano, Nigeria; currently lives and works in Iowa City, Iowa, USA) studied literature at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He is a recent graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop where he had a Truman Capote Fellowship and won the 2018 Richard Yates Short Story Contest. Shortlisted for the 2017 AKO Caine Prize for African Writing, his short stories have appeared, among other places, in the *Caine Prize Anthologies*, *One Story*, and *A Public Space* where he was a 2015 APS Emerging Writer Fellow. He has short fiction forthcoming in *Guernica*; forthcoming as well is a Swedish translation of "God's Children Are Little Broken Things", a short story, from Aspekt förlag. His debut, a collection of stories, comes out in 2022 from A Public Space Books. He is currently working on a novel about love, race, dislocation, and OnlyFans.

Cristiano Mangovo (b. 1982 in Cabinda, Angola; currently lives and works in Lisbon, Portugal) earned his Degree in Fine Art from the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo with additional training in urban scenography and performance. Mangovo's paintings,

sculptures, installations, and performances are inspired by daily urban life and often appeal to the need to protect weaker people from the stronger, calling for more balanced societies with improved conditions for all. Through his paintings and collages over the years, Mangovo has developed various styles and symbolisms, but always with a distinct surrealist approach. Mangovo received early recognition for his work, building up to some fifty exhibitions and performances with his first post-graduate solo exhibition in 2013 by the Foundation Art and Culture in Luanda, which ended up touring to Art BAI that year. In 2014, he was awarded the Mirella Antognoli Argelá Prize by the Italian Embassy and Alliance Française as well as the prestigious Angolan ENSA Art prize, which sent him into Cité Internationale des Arts residency resulting in a solo exhibition in Paris. Since then, he has exhibited internationally in solo and group exhibitions in Portugal, France, Italy, Switzerland, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Belgium, the Netherlands and the United States.

Esmaa Mohamoud (b. 1992 in London, Ontario, Canada; currently lives and works in Toronto, Ontario, Canada) is an African-Canadian artist. She holds a BFA from Western University (2014) and an MFA from OCAD University (2016). Recently, Mohamoud has exhibited at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts Montreal and the University of Michigan's Institute for the Humanities Gallery, USA. Current and upcoming exhibitions include: *To the Hoop: Basketball and Contemporary Art*, Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC, USA; travelling to Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, KS, USA, *Esmaa Mohamoud: Double Dribble*, The Bentway, Signature Public Art Commission, *After a Fashion: Dress, Desire, and Contemporary Art*, curated by Dr. Alexandra Schwartz, Ph.D., Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, USA, and *Aliens with Extraordinary Abilities*, curated by Tak Pham, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, SK, Canada. Mohamoud is represented by Georgia Scherman Projects.

Katherina Olschbaur (b. 1983 in Bregenz, Austria; currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California, USA) uses the body as a site of repressed desire to illuminate her own narratives regarding gender, power and sexuality, revealing a new understanding of female body language that questions, disrupts and dismantles the stereotypes and prejudices perpetuated by society's ongoing expectations on women. Olschbaur graduated from the University of Applied Arts, Vienna, Austria. Recent exhibitions include *Katherina Olschbaur: Tortured Ecstasies*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2020, solo); *Dirty Elements*, Contemporary Arts Center Gallery, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA (2020, solo); *Hollywood Babylon*, Jeffrey Deitch, Nicodim, Autre Magazine, Los Angeles, CA (2020); *LA on Fire*, Wilding Cran Gallery, Los Angeles (2019) *Trans World*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, USA/ Bucharest, Romania (2019); *The Divine Hermaphrodite*, GNYP Gallery, Berlin, Germany (2019, solo); *Horses*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, USA (2018, solo); *SEED*, curated by Yvonne Force Villareal, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, USA (2018); *A Painters Table, Symposium on Painting and Change*, organized with Bianca Regl, Blackbridge OFF Space, Beijing, China (2017); *Haunted by Strokes*, Galerie Werkstatt Graz, Austria (2016, solo), *Wicked Walls*, Museum on Demand, Vienna (Solo 2011). Her work was featured in group shows in institutions such as Museum Gironcoli (AT) Salzburger Kunstverein (AT), Kunsthalle Krems (AT).

Irene Antonia Diane Reece (b. 1993 in Houston, Texas, USA; currently lives and works in Houston, Texas, USA) identifies as a contemporary artist and visual activist. Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Reece currently resides and works between the United States and Europe. She earned her BFA in Photography and Digital Media and MFA in Photography and Image-making. Reece is noted for the usage of her family archives as a form of activism and liberation. Reece's photographic works, appropriated films, usage of text, and found objects create an insight into her world. The work displays the multifaceted identities that intersect one another. The topics surrounding her work are racial identity, African diaspora, social injustice, family histories, re-memory, mental and community health. Her work pushes boundaries and forces her viewers to confront issues that are

deemed difficult to tackle. Reece's objectives are to continue to take up space, be outspoken about the white-centric art world, and create forms of racial equity in the arts.

Curtis Talwst Santiago (b. 1979 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; currently lives and works in Munich, Germany) studied as an apprentice of Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun. Santiago has exhibited internationally at venues such as The Drawing Center, New York, NY; The FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY; The New Museum, New York, NY; The Eli and Edythe Broad Museum at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI; the Institute of Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA; the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan, Canada; The Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada; Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, The Rooms, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada and the SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA; among others. The artist was included in the inaugural 2019 Toronto Biennial of Art in Toronto, Canada, the SITE Santa Fe SITELines 2018 Biennial, Casa Tomada, in Santa Fe, NM, and was featured in the 2018 Biennale de Dakar in Dakar, Senegal. He is currently an active board member on the Board of Directors for the Drawing Center in New York. His work is in the permanent collection of the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY. Santiago considers himself decentralized and is currently living and working in Munich, Germany.

Darryl DeAngelo Terrell (b. Detroit, Michigan, USA; currently lives and works in Detroit, Michigan, USA) primarily works within lens-based media (i.e. photography, video), performance, and writing. Terrell is also a Curator, DJ, Organizer, and Educator. They received their Master of Fine Art from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Terrell works under the philosophy of F.U.B.U (This Shit Is For Us*). They're always thinking about how the work can aid in a larger conversation about blackness and its many intersectionalities. Terrell's work explores the displacement of black and brown people, femme identity and strength, the black family structure, sexuality, gender, safe spaces for all black bodies, and personal stories— all while keeping in mind the accessibility of art.

Stephanie J. Woods (b. Charlotte, North Carolina, USA; currently lives and works in Richmond, Virginia, USA) is a multimedia artist creating textile, photography, video, and community-engaged projects. Through the use of symbolic imagery and materials referencing Black American culture and the southern American experience, her body of work examines performative behavior and the cognitive effects of forced cultural assimilation. Woods is the recipient of several residencies and fellowships, including Halcyon Arts Lab social impact fellowship, the Fine Arts Work Center fellowship, ACRE Residency, the McColl Center for Art + Innovation, Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists' Residency, and Penland School of Craft. Additionally, her work has been featured in *BOMB Magazine*, *Art Papers*, *Burnaway*, and the *Boston Art Review*.

2021 SELECTION COMMITTEE

Sir David Adjaye OBE is an award winning Ghanaian-British architect known to infuse his artistic sensibilities and ethos for community-driven projects. His ingenious use of materials, bespoke designs and visionary sensibilities have set him apart as one of the leading architects of his generation. In 2000, David founded his own practice, Adjaye Associates, which today operates globally with studios in Accra, London, and New York taking on projects that span the globe. His firm's early work involved private commissions for the design of artist studios and residences and quickly evolved into civic commissions beginning with the Ideas Stores, two public libraries in London. His most well-known project to date, The National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, DC opened on the National Mall in Washington, DC in 2016 and was named Cultural Event of the Year by The New York Times. In 2017, Adjaye was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II and was recognized as one of the 100 most influential people of the year by TIME Magazine. Most recently, Adjaye was announced the winner of the 2021 RIBA Royal Gold Medal. Personally, approved by Her Majesty the Queen, the Royal Gold Medal is considered one of the highest honors in British architecture for significant contribution to the field internationally.

Amoako Bofo studied at the Ghanatta College of Art and Design, Accra, Ghana before attending the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, Austria. Regarded as a notable young voice in art of the African diaspora, Amoako Bofo has emphasized new approaches to the “representation, documentation, and celebration of Blackness.” Within his vibrant portraits, viewers have to pay attention to the figures’ posture, what they are wearing, and the stroke of their skin as well as their background to understand the doughty statements Bofo presents. His subjects are often fitted within the frame of the canvas, just as his signature is squeezed within a small box. The framing devices serve as a reminder that these portraits are condensed and there is more to them than what is restricted by the painter’s material. Bofo was awarded with the jury prize, Walter Koschatzky Art Prize in 2017 and the STRABAG Art award International in 2019 both in Vienna, Austria. In 2019, he participated in a residency with the new Rubell Museum in Miami, Florida and in 2020 collaborated with Dior for their Spring/Summer 2021 Men Collection. Widely collected by private and public collectors and institutions, most recently by Blenheim Art Foundation, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Rubell Museum, Marieluise Hessel Collection, the Aishti Foundation, the CCS Bard College Hessel Museum of Art, the Pizzuti Collection of Columbus Museum of Art and the Albertina Museum in Vienna.

Naomi Campbell was born in London, England and discovered as a fashion model at age 15. Throughout her career, she’s fronted the covers of over 1000 magazines, been featured in campaigns for celebrated houses including Burberry, Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, Marc Jacobs, and Louis Vuitton, and walked iconic shows for Chanel, Azzedine Alaia, Christian Dior, and Versace. Beyond her work in the fashion & entertainment industries, Campbell has used her celebrity for an array of fundraising and non-profit initiatives across the globe. Environmentalism, as well as Human Rights and Global Health, as it specifically pertains to women and children, have been critical sectors of Campbell’s work. She has also formed her own non-profit, Fashion For Relief, a charitable organization founded in 2005 that has raised funds for various environmental and humanitarian causes. It holds events in association with the London-based non-profit organization CARE. Today, Campbell is undoubtedly solidifying her place as a cultural innovator- using her incredible platform and success for positive change across industries around the world.

Yagazie Emezi is a Nigerian artist and self-taught photojournalist focused on stories surrounding African women and their health, sexuality, education and human rights. Her art practice uses photography and sculpture to construct visual critiques of Nigeria’s socio-political state and the roles

media play in it, pulling from history and current events. She began her journey in 2015 and has since worked with New York Times, Vogue, Newsweek, TIME, The Guardian, Washington Post, National Geographic, Bloomberg Businessweek, The Weather Channel, and several not-for-profit organizations. After ten months in Monrovia, Liberia (2017) documenting the impact of education on girls in at-risk communities, Yagazie returned to her ongoing project *Re-learning Bodies* which explores how trauma survivors, outside the narrative of violence and abuse, adapt to their new bodies while marking the absence of an effusive culture around body positivity as a noteworthy cultural phenomenon. Through 2018–2019, Yagazie documented patrols at sea through Liberia, Gabon and Namibia with the non-profit Sea Shepherd, recording government efforts to protect marine wildlife from Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) activities. Yagazie is a recipient of the 2018 inaugural Creative Bursary Award from Getty Images. In November of 2018, she received a grant from the U.S Consulate General in Lagos for her photo-series addressing the reality of sexual violence against women and the vulnerable young in Nigeria. In 2019, she became the first black African woman to photograph for National Geographic Magazine and is a National Geographic Explorer Grantee. She is currently a mentor for the 2021 Women Photograph Mentorship Program.

Christine Y. Kim is curator of *Julie Mehretu*, a mid-career survey of the artist's work, co-organized with the Whitney Museum of American Art (2019–21). Kim also curated Isaac Julien's *Playtime* (2018); *Diana Thater: The Sympathetic Imagination* (2015–16); *My Barbarian: Double Agency* (2015); *James Turrell: A Retrospective* (2013–14); *Human Nature: Contemporary Art from the Collection* (2011), and *Teresa Margolles* (2010), an outdoor sculpture project in collaboration with the Los Angeles Nomadic Division (LAND), a non-profit organization for public art which she co-founded in 2009. Prior to her move to Los Angeles, Kim held positions at The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2000–08) where she curated numerous solo and group exhibitions including *Flow* (2008); *Kehinde Wiley: World Stage: Africa, Lagos-Dakar* (2008); *Philosophy of Time Travel* (2007); *Henry Taylor: Sis and Bra* (2007); *Frequency* (2005); *Meschac Gaba: Tresses* (2005); *Black Belt* (2003); and *Freestyle* (2001). A recipient of the New Leadership Award from ArtTable (2009), was co-curator of the 12th Gwangju Biennale: *Imagined Borders* (2018), and curatorial advisor for *Prospect 3: Notes for Now*, New Orleans (2014) among other international biennials and exhibitions. Kim is also co-founder and Board member of GYOPO, a diasporic Korean contemporary art and culture non-profit based in Los Angeles started in 2017.

Anne Pasternak has served as the Shelby White and Leon Levy Director of the Brooklyn Museum since 2015. For more than thirty years, she has devoted her career to engaging broad audiences with the limitless power of art to move, motivate, and inspire. A staunch advocate for the civic and democratic roles our cultural and educational institutions can play, Anne is committed to projects that demonstrate the crucial links between art and social justice. During her time here, Anne has focused on strengthening the Museum as a global center for the visual arts that is courageous, pioneering, and inclusive. Through her leadership, Anne has expanded exhibitions, educational offerings and public programs. Previously, Anne served as the President and Artistic Director of Creative Time. She collaborated with hundreds of artists commissioning and presenting works as well as *Tribute in Light*, the twin beacons of light that illuminate the former World Trade Center site, on the anniversary of 9/11.

ABOUT BLACK ROCK SENEGAL

Named for the volcanic rocks that blanket its shoreline, Black Rock is a multidisciplinary artist-in-residence program founded by renowned artist Kehinde Wiley in 2019. 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. Our mission is to support new artistic creation through collaborative exchange and to incite change in the global discourse about Africa.

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 Times Square, 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.

Information: For general inquiries, please visit blackrocksenegal.org or refer to **the link** to our Frequently Asked Questions.

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