

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 17, 2019

Kehinde Wiley to Unveil Monumental Sculpture in Times Square on Friday, September 27, 2019 at 2:00 PM
Kehinde Wiley's First Monumental Public Sculpture will remain in Times Square through December 1 before moving permanently to Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, VA



Installation view of Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic presented at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, June 11-Sept. 5, 2016.

Times Square Arts, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) and Sean Kelly, New York unveil artist **Kehinde Wiley's** first monumental public sculpture ***Rumors of War*** in Times Square, New York - **Friday, September 27, 2019 at 2p.m. on the Broadway Plaza between 46th and 47th Streets.** The event on September 27 will include remarks from the artist and partners.

Rumors of War will be exhibited in Times Square September 27 to December 1. Following its presentation in Times Square, *Rumors of War*, a recent acquisition to VMFA's world-class collection, will be permanently installed at the museum's entrance on historic Arthur Ashe Boulevard in Richmond, Virginia.

Kehinde Wiley 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. *Rumors of War*, his largest work to date, continues Wiley's career-long investigation of the politics of representation, race, gender, and power. With this new sculpture, Wiley returns to equestrian portraiture to engage its complicated visual rhetoric of warfare and heroism on an epic scale.

Mounted proudly on its large stone pedestal, Wiley's monumental bronze sculpture, *Rumors of War*, is the artist's direct response to the ubiquitous Confederate sculptures that populate the United States, particularly in the South. Sitting astride a massive horse in a striking pose, Wiley's young, African-American subject presents a powerful visual repositioning of young black men in our public consciousness while directly engaging the national conversation around monuments and their role in perpetuating incomplete narratives and contemporary inequities.

EVENT: Kehinde Wiley's *Rumors of War* unveiling

DATE: Friday, September 27, 2019

TIME: 2:00 PM
(press check in will begin at 1:30)

Interview opportunities will be available upon request with:

Tim Tompkins, President of the Times Square Alliance

Sean Kelly, Sean Kelly, New York

Alex Nyerges, Director and CEO, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia

PLACE: Broadway Plaza between 46th and 47th Streets, Times Square
(press check in will be located at the south west corner of the plaza at 46th Street and Broadway; close to the entrance of American Eagle)

RSVP: Nicole Daniels/ndaniels@rubenstein.com

About the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia, is one of the largest comprehensive art museums in the United States. VMFA, which opened in 1936, is a state agency and privately endowed educational institution. Its purpose is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret art, and to encourage the study of the arts. Through the Office of Statewide Partnerships program, the museum offers curated exhibitions, arts-related audiovisual programs, symposia, lectures, conferences, and workshops by visual and performing artists. In addition to presenting a wide array of special exhibitions, the museum provides visitors with the opportunity to experience a global collection of art that spans more than 6,000 years. VMFA's permanent holdings encompass nearly 40,000 artworks, including the largest public collection of Fabergé outside of Russia, the finest collection of Art Nouveau outside of Paris, and one of the nation's finest collections of American art. VMFA is also home to important collections of Chinese art, English silver, and French Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, British sporting, and modern and contemporary art, as well as renowned South Asian, Himalayan, and African art. In May 2010, VMFA opened its doors to the public after a transformative expansion, the largest in its history.

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is the only art museum in the United States open 365 days a year with free general admission. For additional information, telephone 804.340.1400 or visit www.VMFA.museum.

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