

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

December 3, 2019

**Kehinde Wiley: *Rumors of War* to be Permanently Installed at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on Dec. 10 at 3:30PM**

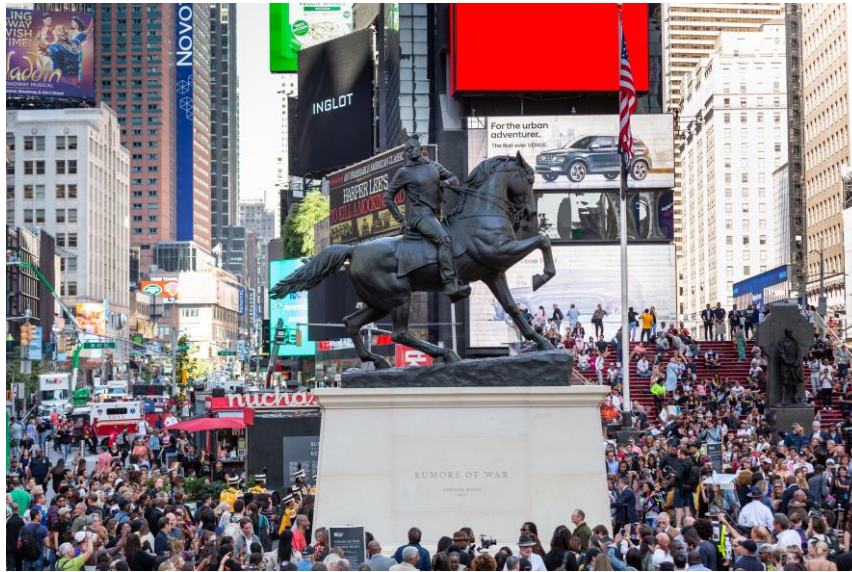


Photo by Travis Fullerton © Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

**RICHMOND, VA (DECEMBER 3, 2019)** — On December 10, Kehinde Wiley’s *Rumors of War* will be permanently installed at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) in Richmond, VA. The unveiling will begin at 3:30 p.m. and is open to the public. The program will include remarks by Kehinde Wiley; The Honorable Ralph Northam, Governor of Virginia; The Honorable Levar Stoney, Mayor of the City of Richmond; Alex Nyerges, VMFA’s Director and CEO; Dr. Monroe Harris, VMFA’s President of the Board of Trustees; Valerie Cassel Oliver, VMFA’s Sydney and Francis Lewis Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art; and Sean Kelly, founder, Sean Kelly Gallery. The event will begin with a performance by Richmond’s All City High School Marching Band, featuring students from high schools across the city, and conclude with a reception for the public in the museum’s Cochrane Atrium, with live music and refreshments.

Mounted proudly on its large stone pedestal, *Rumors of War* is the artist’s direct response to the ubiquitous Confederate sculptures that populate the United States, particularly in the American South. Standing at just under three stories tall, Wiley’s sculpture depicts a young, African American figure dressed in urban streetwear and sitting astride a massive horse in a striking pose based on the equestrian monument to Confederate States Army general James Ewell Brown “J.E.B.” Stuart on Richmond’s Monument Avenue.

**EVENT: Kehinde Wiley’s *Rumors of War* Unveiling at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**

**DATE: Tuesday, December 10, 2019**

**TIME: 3:30PM (Press check-in will begin at 2:30PM)**

**Interview Opportunities will be available upon request with:**



- Alex Nyerges, Director and CEO, VMFA
- Dr. Monroe Harris, President of the Board of Trustees, VMFA
- Dr. Michael Taylor, Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Art & Education, VMFA
- Valerie Cassel Oliver, Sydney and Francis Lewis Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, VMFA
- Sean Kelly, Owner, Sean Kelly, New York

**PLACE:** Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 200 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd, Richmond, VA 23220

**RSVP:** Daniel Smiertka, [daniel@suttoncomms.com](mailto:daniel@suttoncomms.com) or 212.202.3402 or  
Lillian Dunn, [lillian.dunn@vmfa.museum](mailto:lillian.dunn@vmfa.museum) or 804.340.1517

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