

ROBERTS & TILTON

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May 11, 2006
For Immediate Release



Kehinde Wiley
St. Sebastian # 2006, oil on canvas, 8 x 6 feet



Flemish, Artist Unknown
St. Sebastian, ca. 1510
19 x 4 1/8 inches, left wing of diptych
Permanent Collection, Columbus Museum of Art
Columbus, Ohio



Thomas Campbell



Matt Leines

Kehinde Wiley

Columbus

June 3 - July 8, 2006

Opening reception Saturday, June 3rd, 6 - 8 pm

Columbus, an exhibition by New York based artist Kehinde Wiley, whose portraits of African American men combine elements of modern culture with an Old Master's influence, will be on view June 3, 2006, through July 8, 2006, at Roberts & Tilton. The exhibition will consist of an environment referencing staid, museum traditions and philosophies. Each of Wiley's paintings included in the exhibition is based on specific masterworks from the Columbus Museum's permanent collection where the exhibit will travel in September 2006.

Wiley's work incorporates a range of artistic vernaculars directly from art historical references to a looser, more hybridized concept of modern culture ranging from French Rococo to today's urban streets. He collapses history and style into a unique contemporary vision. Wiley describes his approach as "interrogating the notion of the master painter, at once critical and complicit," and he creates large scale figurative paintings that "quote historical sources and position young black men within that field (of power)." The vividly colorful paintings, often adorned with ornate gilded frames, depict young black men in urban dress, and posed in a manner reminiscent of Renaissance artists such as Tiepolo and Titian, and surrounded with a barrage of Baroque or Rococo decorative patterns. Using models from the city of Columbus and inspiration from the figures in the paintings at the Columbus Museum, these portraits examine not only how African American males are perceived by others, but also how they see themselves, while also simultaneously examining the significance of ornamentation and range of iconography. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Wiley earned his MFA from Yale University, and holds a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. In the spring of 2001, Wiley moved to New York to participate in the Artist-in-Residence program at the Studio Museum in Harlem. In 2007, Wiley will mount a solo exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Columbus travels to the Columbus Museum of Art, September 8, 2006 - January 7, 2007.

A 40-page hard-cover book of the exhibition published by the Columbus Museum of Art and Roberts & Tilton available through www.columbusmuseum.org

Support for the Roberts & Tilton presentation of *Columbus* provided by 

UPCOMING AT ROBERTS & TILTON

July 15 - August 12, 2006

Thomas Campbell *main gallery*

Thomas Campbell's multi-layered, mixed media constructions and paintings are both colorful and profound. The works, unmistakably executed with evidence of the human, hand are painted, drawn, cut or sewn with intricate renderings of characters and text. The end result is a sophisticated dichotomy that is part concept, part handcraft, which together offer an insightful look at contemporary life.

Matt Leines *project room*

Drawing influence from Hermetic Sciences to Hulk Hogan and Harald Hardrada to He-Man, Matt Leines paints pictures that depict the culture and conflicts of a fantasy world inhabited by moustached men, wild beasts, and living architecture.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00am to 6:00pm or by appointment. For additional information, please contact Lindsay Charwood at 323.549.0223 or via lindsay@robertsandtilton.com

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PUBLICATION PRESS RELEASE

Kehinde Wiley: Columbus

Exhibition Catalogue

with essays by

Joe Houston, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at the Columbus Museum of Art, Brian Keith Jackson, Franklin Sirmans and Emil Wilbekin



Kehinde Wiley, *Selah*, 2006, oil on canvas, 8 x 8 feet

Roberts & Tilton is pleased to announce the publication, **Kehinde Wiley: Columbus** which accompanies *Columbus*, an exhibition by New York based artist Kehinde Wiley, whose portraits of African American men combine elements of modern culture with an Old Master's influence, will be on view June 2, 2006 through July 8, 2006 at Roberts & Tilton. The exhibition will consist of an environment referencing staid, museum traditions and philosophies. Each of Wiley's paintings included in the exhibition is based on specific masterworks from the Columbus Museum's permanent collection where the exhibit will travel in September, 2006.

Kehinde Wiley's work incorporates a range of artistic vernaculars directly from art historical references to a looser, more hybridized concept of modern culture ranging from French Rococo to today's urban streets. He collapses history and style into a unique contemporary vision. Wiley describes his approach as "interrogating the notion of the master painter, at once critical and complicit," and he creates large scale figurative paintings that "quote historical sources and position young black men within that field (of power)." The vividly colorful paintings, often adorned with ornate gilded frames, depict young black men in urban dress, and posed in a manner reminiscent of Renaissance artists such as Tiepolo and Titian, and surrounded with a barrage of Baroque or Rococo decorative patterns. Using models from the city of Columbus and inspiration from the figures in the paintings at the Columbus Museum, these portraits examine not only how African American males are perceived by others, but also how they see themselves, while also simultaneously examining the significance of ornamentation and range of iconography. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Wiley recently earned his MFA from Yale University, and holds a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. In the spring of 2001, Wiley moved to New York to participate in the Artist-in-Residence program at the Studio Museum in Harlem. In 2004, Wiley had a solo exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum of Art and in 2007, the National Portrait Gallery will mount a solo exhibition as well. Support for the Roberts & Tilton venue of *Kehinde Wiley: Columbus* provided by Wike. Additional support for this publication provided by E. Blake Byrne in honor of Columbus, Ohio, the city of his birth.

Essayist **Joe Houston** is Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at the Columbus Museum of Art where he guides the Museum's exhibition program and collection of contemporary painting, sculpture and new media. He has served as curator of exhibitions of Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, as curator of Rockford Art Museum in Rockford, Illinois. Among the major exhibitions he has curated are *Transfigurations: The Body in 20th Century Art, Post-digital Painting, and Lifelike: Alternative Realities in Contemporary Photography*. He has also curated monographic exhibitions of sculptor Rona Pondick, video artist Annika Larsen, architect Peter Lynch, and the artists' collaborative Ocean Earth Development Corporation. Among his publications are *Artists of the Twenty-First Century: Carl Fodge* (2003), *100 Treasures of Cranbrook Art Museum* (2003), and *Post-Digital Painting* (2002). He has also written for *American Art Review* and *Outline*, a journal of Cranbrook Academy of Art. **Brian Keith Jackson** has received fellowships from Art Matters, the Jerome Foundation, and the Willey Colony for the Arts. *The View From Here* won the American Library Association Literary Award for First Fiction from the Black Caucus of America. Jackson lives in

Harlem. **Franklin Sirmans** is an independent curator, writer, editor and lecturer based in New York City. A former U.S. Editor of *Flash Art* and Editor-in-Chief of *Art Asia/Pacific* magazines, Sirmans has written for several journals and newspapers on art and culture, including *The New York Times*, *Newsweek International*, *Art in America*, *ArtNews*, *Grand Street* and *Essence Magazine*. **Emil Wilbekin** is a graduate of Hampton University and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in New York City. He provides frequent expert commentary on music, urban culture, and fashion for numerous television outlets and programs, including NBC's *Today*, CNN, The Fox News Channel, BET, MTV, and VH1. Emil Wilbekin, editorial director and vice-president for brand development for Vibe Ventures, joined Vibe magazine in 1992 when it was merely in its conceptual stages. Since then, Wilbekin has advanced markedly, holding a myriad of editorial positions and editing nearly every section of the magazine. Prior to joining Vibe, he held reporting positions at *Metropolitan Home*, *the Associated Press*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *People* magazine. He has also contributed to *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Emerge*.



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