

Kehinde Wiley

Press Release
October 2016

LAMENTATION

20 October 2016 - 15 January 2017



Petit Palais
Musée des Beaux-Arts
de la Ville de Paris

Tuesday-Sunday
10am – 6pm

INFORMATIONS

www.petitpalais.paris.fr

The Petit Palais is holding the first solo exhibition in France of work by Afro-American artist Kehinde Wiley. The exhibition features a previously unseen series of ten monumental works, in the form of stained glass windows and paintings, showcased at the heart of the museum's permanent collections.

Kehinde Wiley draws on the tradition of classical painting masters such as Titian, Van Dyck, Ingres and David to create portraits drenched in colour and abounding in adornment. The subjects are young black and mixed-race people, anonymous models encountered during ad-hoc street castings. The result is a collision where art history and popular culture come face to face. The artist eroticizes the invisible, those traditionally excluded from representations of power, endowing them with hero status. His work takes the vocabulary of power and prestige in a new direction, oscillating between politically-charged critique and an avowed fascination with the luxury and bombast of our society's symbols.

For the Petit Palais show, Kehinde Wiley continues to explore religious iconography, with references to Christ and, for the first time, the figure of the Virgin. **Six stained glass windows will be installed on a hexagonal structure in the large format gallery. They will be accompanied by three monumental paintings displayed on the walls of one of the ground floor rooms housing 19th century collections.**



Kehinde Wiley, *Mary, Comforter of the Afflicted I*, 2016

Courtesy Galerie Templon, Paris et Bruxelles
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Born in 1977 in Los Angeles, Kehinde Wiley lives and works in New York, Beijing and Dakar. The virtuoso painter, who grew up in an underprivileged neighbourhood and went on to graduate from Yale, is often described as a “walking superlative”. He has exhibited his work at several major US museums, including the Studio Museum in Harlem (2008) and New York Jewish Museum (2012). The Brooklyn Museum held the first retrospective dedicated to the artist in 2014: *Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic*. The exhibition then travelled to the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth in Texas (2015), Seattle Art Museum in Washington and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia (2016). His work is included in over 35 public collections, including at the Brooklyn Museum of Art and Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Hammer Museum and LACMA in Los Angeles and Walker Art Center in Minneapolis.

Exhibition organized with the support of Galerie Templon

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CURATOR:

Susana Gallego Cuesta : curator, Petit Palais

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