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Kehinde Wiley

The World Stage: Brazil

April 4 – May 30, 2009

Opening Reception Saturday, April 4th, 6 – 8pm

Roberts & Tilton is pleased to announce *The World Stage: Brazil*, the latest offering of Kehinde Wiley's ambitious *World Stage* series. Through Wiley's extensive investigative exchange, the artist's contemporary yet historical oeuvre accentuates international cultures and their denizens, evoking discourse on an ever-expanding examination of globalization.

During Wiley's residency in Rio de Janeiro, Afro-Brazilian men became the impetus for the majestic paintings, inspired by the iconic nationalistic sculptures that line the city streets and anchor its parks. Statesmen, noblemen, and the elite of Brazil are erased from their perches; the young black and brown men from present-day favelas are aggrandized. In tandem with the homoerotic undertone, Wiley further challenges the realm of the conventional male gaze. The viewer is forced to confront notions of the inherent colonial influence, exoticism and fetishization.

Though weaving in the history of Western portraiture, the Brazilian essence radiates from Wiley's new body of work. Oversized, tropical flowers bursting in bloom, appropriated from brightly hued indigenous textiles, encompass the spirit and culture of Brazil. Set against a storied backdrop of Brazilian iconography, the male subjects pose in their own clothing, reflecting a reverence for American conspicuous consumption.

Past segments of *The World Stage* include Africa and China. This is Wiley's third solo exhibition with Roberts & Tilton. Previously, Wiley has had solo museum exhibitions at The Brooklyn Museum of Art (Brooklyn, New York), the Columbus Museum of Art (Columbus, Ohio) the Portland Art Museum (Portland, Oregon) and most recently The Studio Museum in Harlem (New York, New York). He has also been included in exhibitions at the Hammer Museum, (Los Angeles, California), the Rubell Family Collection, (Miami, Florida), the National Portrait Gallery (Washington, D.C.), and the Whitney Museum (New York, New York).

Catalogue

A 64-page hardcover book of the exhibition, published by Roberts & Tilton, Culver City, California, will be available through D.A.P. in Summer 2009.

Lecture

Kehinde Wiley will speak about his work as well as *The World Stage: Brazil* on April 2, 2009 at 7pm at the Harold M. Williams Auditorium at the Getty Center, Los Angeles. For further information regarding the lecture, please contact the Getty Center, tel. 310-440-7300.

Beverages generously provided by O.N.E. and Grolsch.

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