

- Kehinde Wiley, born in Los Angeles, is a large-scale portraitist
- Typical subjects are “urban, black and brown” young men
- He sees them as a reflection of himself and representations of cultural exchange
- First subjects originated from Harlem
- Has since taken an international focus with his art
- Travels around the globe to places he feels Americans view as ‘exotic’
- His subject choices stem from his interest in shining light on cultures that have traditionally been invisible in the art world
- Adds modern themes and everyday people to artworks representing a country’s history
- Portraits highlight underrepresented youth in an effort to include them in their country’s narrative
- Intends to elevate these native, urban men to redefine their role in society and eliminate their label as foreign or exotic

- This work is part of the third installment of Wiley’s series The World Stage
- Created during 2008-2009 residency in Brazil
- Depicts Afro-Brazilian males in poses drawn from iconic and art-historically recognizable portraits of rich, powerful, and usually white men
- These portraits explore how power is defined and represented
- The Afro-Brazilian men in this portrait are residents of Rio de Janeiro’s favelas (slums)



Marechal Floriano Peixoto 2009

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