

Object Information:

Napoleon Leading the Army over the Alps,

2005, Kehinde Wiley, Contemporary Art, Martha A. and Robert S. Rubin Pavilion, 1st Floor, L2005.6

Object Description:

The painting depicts a black male, dressed in camouflage pants, an open button-up camouflage shirt, Timberland boots, and a flowing golden cape. He has tattoos of asian characters on his right forearm, and he's wearing red wristbands. He has a serious expression on his face and a white bandanna tied around his head. He has very short hair. He's riding a white horse atop a rocky surface while the horse is rearing on its hind legs.

The background consists of an elaborate golden print on a rich red backdrop. On the rocks there are the names of previous conquerors such as Hannibal, Bonaparte, Karolus Manus. The most recent addition to the graffiti is the name "Williams."



Contextual & Historical Information:

"The models, dressed in their everyday clothing most of which are based on the notion of far-reaching Western ideals of style, are asked to assume poses found in paintings or sculptures representative of the history of their surroundings. This juxtaposition of the "old" inherited by the "new" - who often have no visual inheritance of which to speak - immediately provides a discourse that is at once visceral and cerebral in scope." – Kehinde Wiley, artist statement

Kehinde Wiley painted this piece in 2005 in his Harlem studio in New York city. The original figure of Napoleon Bonaparte is replaced by an anonymous man from Wiley's neighborhood.

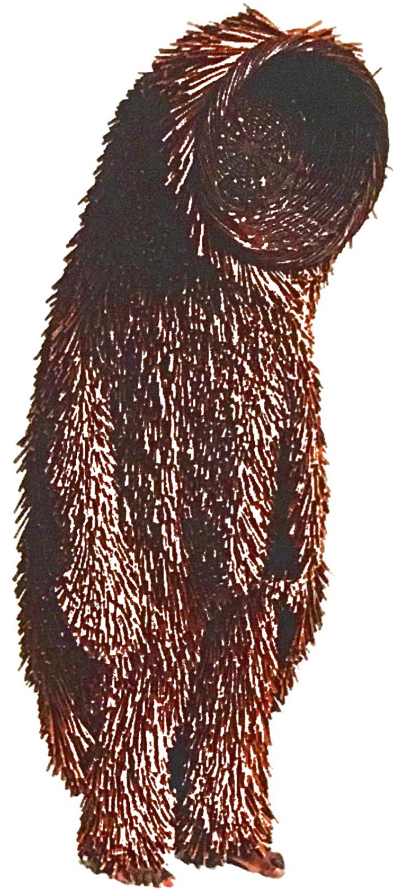
Soundsuit,

2010, Nick Cave, [Contemporary Art Galleries, 4th Floor](#), L2011.6

Object Description:

A figure the size of a grown man stands with its hands at its sides. Its body is covered in short brownish-red twigs and they stick out all over, covering the figure entirely. However, there is a woven basket in the area where its face would be, also made of twigs. The feet and hands of the wearer are not covered by the suit and are visible. The soundsuit consists of three separate pieces: the pants, the cape, and the headpiece.

When the costume is worn the costume makes rustling, crunching sounds as the person inside it moves. The sticks rub up against each other and make a dry sound like kindling.



Contextual & Historical Information:

Nick Cave made this Soundsuit by “going outside and collecting a bunch of twigs.” He wanted to make objects that could be relevant to his surroundings and to also interact with his environment. He’s inspired by various African rituals and ceremonial masks and costumes. The twig Soundsuit was the first soundsuit he created.

Prince Yahya,

ca. 1830, Muhammad Hassan, [Arts of the Islamic World](#), 2nd floor, 72.26.5

Object Description

On a red, black and white ornate carpet kneels a tall young man. The carpet is decorated with circles and dots, and the youth wears a red tunic decorated with pearls and stitching. On his chest he has an 8-pointed medal. His eyes are narrowed and almond-shaped. His eyebrows are dark and they arch above his eyes while his cheeks are rosy and his lips are small. He has shoulder length black hair and he wears a tall crown that extends past the edge of the portrait. In one hand he holds a dagger and in the other he holds a sword.

On the floor there is a case full of jewels and decorations and a watch. Behind him there is a wooden wall. Over his right shoulder there is an inscription that says "His Highness Prince Yahya Mirza." In the very back of the painting there are columns and red drapes.

Contextual & Historical Information:

Prince Yahya was the son of Fath Ali Shah. The Shah commissioned many art pieces over the course of his time in power, and he had many children which he appointed to different positions of power. Prince Yahyah, for example, was a governor. His father wanted many impressive art pieces to show off to different foreigners for them to associate Qajar with the old ideas of Iran being a powerful and grand place. As a result this sparked a "return," also called Bazgasht. It was a minor renaissance primarily in arts and literature.



Bibliography

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