

# NEW YORK

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# Brooklyn

# Style

BY WENDY GOODMAN

And Alexandra Lange, Aja Mangum, Rob Patronite and Robin Raisfeld, Rima Suqi, and Ben Williams

**BROOKLYNism**  
(continued)

**Hungry in Hipsterville**  
B...



**Brooklyn's Finest**



**The New Urban Dream Sequence**



**B**



**Trash Love**



**Double Space**



**STRATEGIST**



**The Player's Pen**



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**Classic Craft**



**When Is A Chair Not A Chair?**



# Double Space

Artist **KEHINDE WILEY** wanted a space that was big enough to hold his mammoth canvases and a thousand of his closest friends.



**N**ORMALLY, I WOULDN'T go for a space this ambitious," says artist Kehinde Wiley, surveying his 3,200-square-foot rental studio, with its soaring eighteen-foot ceilings (the bedroom is reached by a walkway that's eight feet in the air). But Wiley was determined to live and work in the same space, and since his chosen format is modern heroic portraiture, and his canvases run, oh, about nine feet by twelve feet, he had specific requirements when he decided to leave his West 23rd Street studio a year ago.

"I saw a few spaces in Manhattan, but they weren't quite as cavernous as I wanted," he says. "And the price was prohibitive."

He didn't need the square footage just for his work; Wiley is a famous party-thrower. "One of the great things about having a lot of artist friends is that they can introduce you to more of them, and then you have a whole community of people who can converge into a space," he says. Some nights, he figures, a thousand people have passed through the living room. "We have a





*In the studio's main living space, the windows face west and north; Wiley can see Manhattan from the couch. The walls were a dull gray when he moved in; he painted them a deep tomato red.*

*The yellow chair, a scavenged find, served as the seat for LL Cool J's portrait sessions.*

*The gray chairs come from the furniture store Two Jakes, which is next door. The buffalo head was part of an installation for one of Wiley's shows. The piano is there because Wiley hopes one day to have the time to play it. The sculpture of a miniature house on the pedestal next to the*

*piano is by a friend of Wiley's, the artist Adia Millett.*

*Opposite, top, the bedroom is suspended like a bird's nest over the living room and reached by stairs and a walkway. The kitchen, bottom, is tucked behind the industrial building's massive pillars.*