

2012/13 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Kraus Family Foundation Award

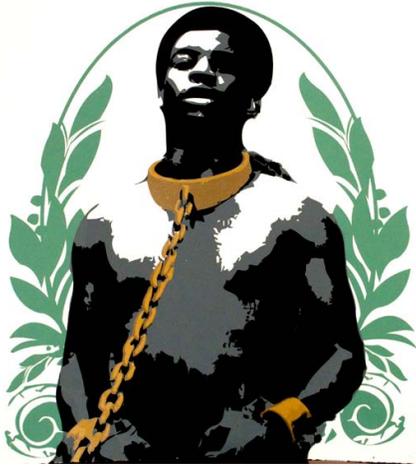


KRISTOPHER WRIGHT

Fine Art

Junior

School of the Art Institute of Chicago



I began creating work in and around my junior year of high school and, at the time, focused on technique over content. I worked in nearly every medium I could get my hands on, starting with drawing, and then quickly moving through painting, photography, sculpture, printing and graphic design. During senior year, after I had become comfortable in my skills, I realized this was something I wanted to pursue. But first I saw the need for my work to mature and to start containing more meaningful content and ideas. I recognized that almost all good art had something profound to say in one way or another, and I felt I needed to do the same.

Being an African American, I created a series of conceptual self-portraits regarding the personal and cultural identity of the black male in America. Also, having nearly lost my father to a stroke, I began to explore ideas of mortality and personal spirituality as well. Throughout high school, I received several recognitions.



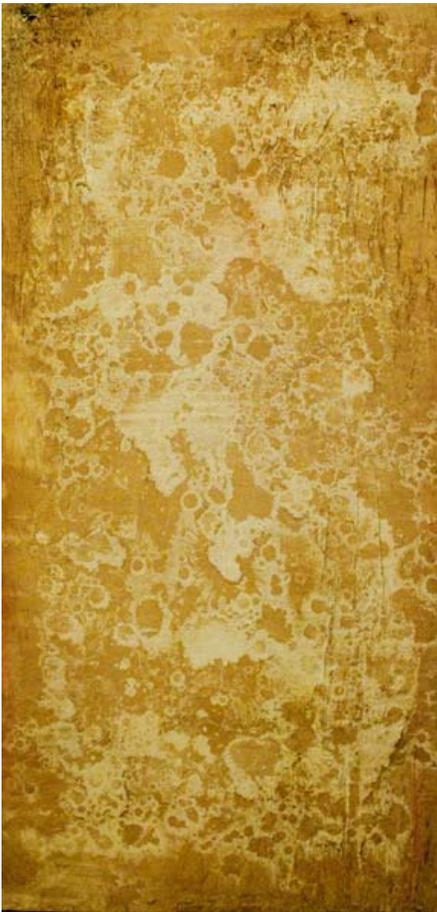
Worldstudio
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the professional association for design

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As I progressed into college I carried with me many of these same themes, but expanded into less personal and more universal and worldly subject matter. Instead of focusing on my experience as a black male, I began focusing on other's experience, which evolved into work regarding the genocide conflicts in Africa. And instead of mortality, other works of mine were created in response to my experiences with current events such as Occupy Wall Street. It was at this point where I realized I'd truly found my niche as a political/cultural art maker.

Understanding the importance of art in our society, I find it extremely important to help encourage and promote young artists that want to make a difference in the world. As a person who's been blessed with so many opportunities that have gotten me to where I am today, I want to help young artists who strive to do the same by opening a kind of hybrid gallery that exclusively helps to promote and support inner city high school and college level talent who are pursuing a career in the arts and need a place to show their work. By doing this, I hope to help young artists in the community reach their goals, and also raise awareness of social issues through art! The work that I produce is an extension of who I am, what I have experienced, and communicates what I care about. I am committed to work in a position that allows me to use my art to serve others. I will continue on as an active participant in the community and expand on the work that I have successfully started in school.

