New York contemporary artist Kehinde Wiley has made a name for himself with his paintings of African-American men posing heroically in front of baroque backgrounds. For his latest exhibition, however, he dipped his toes in new territory with a series of paintings of women (cast from the streets of New York)—all clad in Givenchy. Wiley worked closely with Givenchy’s Riccardo Tisci to come up with six dresses for the models, reportedly spending hours in the Louvre together seeking inspiration for the looks. It’s a process that is soon to be revealed to the public in a documentary by filmmaker Jeff Dupre, who closely tracked the project’s creation. The exhibition (An Economy of Grace), exploring the depiction of gender in the context of history, opens at the Sean Kelly Gallery in New York in May. Above, an exclusive look at Tisci and Wiley hard at work on the project.

Photo: Courtesy Photo
tags: Givenchy, Kehinde Wiley, Riccardo Tisci, Sean Kelly Gallery