

Interview

IN STUDIO

Get to Know 5 Rising Art Stars From the New Museum Triennial

By *Interview*

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Brandon Ndife



Photograph by Tim Schutsky. Photography assistant: Steven Miner.

Age: 30

Hometown: Hammond, IN

Lives in: Brooklyn, NY

Favorite color: Moss green, Orange

Primary Practice: Mixed Media

INTERVIEW: What formative experience led you to want to be an artist?

BRANDON NDIFE: Two of my favorite artists were actually children's book authors and illustrators—Eric Carle and Tomie dePaola. Their simple, clear style was very attractive to me.

INTERVIEW: How did you settle on your current medium?

NDIFE: My sculptures became an amalgamation of all my previous tendencies and interests over the years.

INTERVIEW: Is New York City still the capital of the art world?

NDIFE: I would say so. Although, the transition to post-pandemic times will be very interesting.

INTERVIEW: Local or global? Where do you find inspiration?

NDIFE: I keep both in mind in my practice. One certainly casts a shadow on the other and sometimes, they shift in terms of pertinence.

INTERVIEW: What would you like to change about the art world?

NDIFE: Less nepotism. I see friends starting to shift power around to those in the margins and that keeps me hopeful.

INTERVIEW: Who is your favorite living artist?

NDIFE: David Hammons.

INTERVIEW: What would you ask **Andy Warhol** if he were still alive?

NDIFE: How have we done so far?

INTERVIEW: In a time of great social and political revolution, what is the role of art?

NDIFE: An act of documentation that the human condition runs through all life.

INTERVIEW: What do you do to clear your mind?

NDIFE: Exercise. It really works. And you get to look like an idiot in public.

INTERVIEW: Describe your studio.

NDIFE: It functions like a laboratory. One Monstera clipping is drinking water out of a plastic cup, a few resin tests are on the side, rehydrating corn husks, experiments with different tactile strengths of expanding foams—it's all very organic. I work very focused but very loose. I never dedicate to just one sculpture for any given moment.