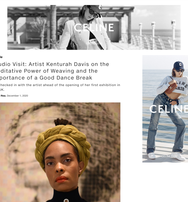

People

Studio Visit: Artist Kenturah Davis on the Meditative Power of Weaving and the Importance of a Good Dance Break

We checked in with the artist ahead of the opening of her first exhibition in the city.

Nate Rice December 1, 2021

Kenturah Davis in her studio, wearing her work Ancestral Weaving (Photo by Ali Tabrizi, courtesy Kenturah Davis)

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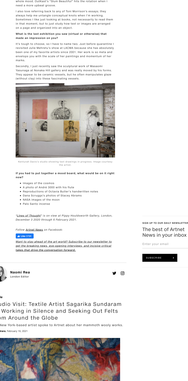
Kenturah Davis in her studio, wearing her work Ancestral Weaving (Photo by Ali Tabrizi, courtesy Kenturah Davis)

Our last first exhibition in the UK, this Los Angeles- and Accra-based artist Kenturah Davis is exploring the power and potency of language. The show, opening at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery on December 2, centers around her work Ancestral Weaving (Red and Yellow), a flag artist often inaugurates based either a year into thread using a Japanese weaving technique called shibi, and creates a meditative space for her viewers to contemplate the ancestral power that's been stripped out as black territory and possibility in the West.

What is the studio like in your organic homeworld that you are most looking forward to?

Weaving! I've been transforming paper two drawings into two-dimensional woven textiles. It's a long, slow, meditative meditative process that has an abstract, and it blended sculpture and portrait form. The process also literally mingles text and home.



Kenturah Davis's studio showing her drawings in progress. (Photo courtesy of the artist)

What are the most indispensable tools in your studio and why?

Working ceramic and handmade paper, much of which was made in Japan. They are beautiful, supple papers that make for wonderful drawing surfaces.

Also, my Nikon camera. Photography has become an increasingly important part of my work. I reference photographs for the making of my drawings, and I also use photography to document my process and to make myself aware of my hand's tendency and possibility in the world.

What is the studio book on your organic homeworld that you are most looking forward to?

Weaving! I've been transforming paper text

takes that drive the conversation forward.

Noor Brara
Art and Design Editor

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