Dexter Wimberly

THE CURATOR BEHIND A NEW ARTIST RESIDENCY IN JAPAN SHARES THE EIGHT THINGS HE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT.

BY VANESSA LAWRENCE

This past March, art curator Dexter Wimberly traveled to Hayama, Japan, with his family to visit his in-laws, an annual pilgrimage they have made since 2012. Little did Wimberly know, his 30-day vacation would turn into a three-month sojourn because of COVID-19. But his extended stay proved opportune. In the summer of 2021, Wimberly was an artist residency in Hayama, wherein recipients can learn about Japanese culture and experience its effects on their artistic practices. "One of the good things that came out of my trip was the clarity for me about what that place can be," Wimberly says, "The town has such a calming and refocusing effect on me." After a career in marketing, working with companies such as Coca-Cola and HBO, Wimberly turned his focus to the visual arts in 2009, curating a show for the Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Art in Brooklyn. He is a senior critic with the New York Academy of Art and connecting creatives with experts in finance and strategy. "There is a whole world of artists who are not able to pursue their dreams because of the financial implications of being an artist," says Wimberly. "I have always wanted to be a catalyst and source of empowerment for others." dexterwimberly.com

1. Monkey 47 Gin
I've been making cocktails at home. I'm a father of four—I think I deserve a great Negroni or gin and tonic from time to time.
monkey47.com

2. Odysseus by A. Lange & Söhne
Watches are my guilty pleasures. This is an example of a venerable German brand taking some design risks.
alangesoehne.com

3. Stillness Is the Key
This public garden in the Bronx, overlooking the Palisades and the Hudson River, is so well-maintained. It's perfect.
wavehill.org

4. Cafe Terro Hayama
This serene café in Japan is in what was once a traditional Japanese home. They source their beans from Costa Rica, and every cup is made to order.
shop.cafeterohayama.jp

5. Billie Zangewa
Her work is very painterly. She uses silk and other materials to make these beautiful tapestries.
lbadzangewa.com

6. Le Labo Labdanum 18
I've been wearing this scent since it launched in 2006. It's not for everyone, but I love it.
lelabofragrances.com

7. Drake's Scarf
You only live once. If wearing a fancy scarf makes you happy, then don't hesitate. I do it as often as possible.
drakes.com