



DESIGN Dozie Kanu

Only two years ago, Dozie Kanu was a film student at the School of Visual Arts, in New York, occasionally helping out classmates on production design for their sets. From there he moved on to various design firms, including stints at Bureau Betak, Matter Made, and Carol Egan, producing small prototypes of his own work after hours. Kanu, who is from Texas and has Nigerian roots, caught the eye of Paul Johnson, the design impresario who spearheads Salon 94's collectible-design division. It was Kanu's contribution to Salon 94 and Maccarone's 2017 group show "Midtown" that grabbed everyone's attention: a purple concrete bench with a base made from two elbow wire wheels. With its seemingly irreverent nods to both hip-hop culture and the work of the design icons that surrounded it, Bench on 84s, as the piece was called, left no doubt that the now 25-year-old was onto something. Kanu, who half-jokingly claims that he got a lot of his design education on Tumblr, is still humbled by the praise, even if he is keenly aware of the importance of getting his name out there. "I'm thinking about the next generation," he says. "Black people aren't really represented in the design industry at all, so in order to shift things a bit, they need to be looking at someone who's doing it at a high level." **FELIX BURRICHTER**

Right: Dozie Kanu, in the Salon 94 warehouse in Queens, with his Chair on 84s, 2018.



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**SALON 94
DESIGN**

12 E 94th Street, New York, NY 10128 | 646-672-9212 | www.salon94design.com | info@salon94design.com