

HYPERALLERGIC

A View From the Easel: **Tony Tasset**, Sawyer, Michigan

Lakshmi Rivera Amin | October 23, 2025



How long have you been working in this space?

Six years.

Describe an average day in your studio.

I don't really have average days. My art changes form a lot, so my routine changes according to what I'm working on. I can go for months without entering my studio or I can be working 12-hour days. Oh, who am I kidding, I rarely work more than six hours. Most of my art making happens outside my studio — reading, looking at art, and living my life. When I'm in my studio I get to work. I've been trying to stay away from podcasts, although Ezra Klein keeps pulling me back in. Mostly I blast music. The last couple of days, I've listened to Fela Kuti, John Prine, Mdua Moctar, Lucinda Williams, Mulato Astatke, and Steve Reich.

How does the space affect your work?

Actually, it's the other way around. I built the studio to fit my work.

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What do you love about your studio?

Love is an awfully serious word. I try to only love people. However, I do really, really like the proportions of my studio. I designed every inch of the space. It feels like just the right size for my ambition and ego. It's pretty big.

What do you wish were different?

I wish there were a steady stream of collectors, curators, and critics drifting through my studio. And I wish I had a team of assistants working full-time helping me keep up with the demand for my art. I would cook fantastic lunches every day and charm my visitors with my erudite and hilarious takes on art and the absurdity of existence.

What is your favorite local museum?

I would like to put in a good word for the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids. It's a lovely park with good art and gardens, beautifully maintained.

What is your favorite art material to work with?

Can I say the internet? I guess it's a tool, not a material. But I can buy any material on it. It's a wonderful resource for the contemporary artist, as long as you stay away from all social media, cooking demos, porn, animals being cute, and the news.