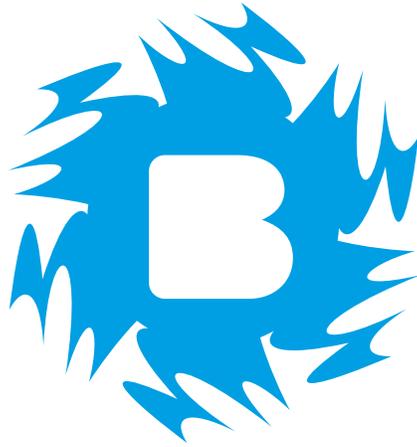


Press Release



May 2013

Brooklyn Museum Presents First Museum Survey of Brooklyn-Based Artist Wangechi Mutu in the United States

***Wangechi Mutu: A Fantastic Journey* on view October 11, 2013, through March 9, 2014**

The artist's most comprehensive survey in the United States to date, *Wangechi Mutu: A Fantastic Journey* brings together more than fifty works from the mid-1990s to the present by this internationally-renowned Brooklyn-based artist. The exhibition features Mutu's signature large-scale collages alongside video works, never-before-seen sketchbook drawings, a site-specific wall piece, and immersive installations.

Born in 1972 in Nairobi, Kenya, Mutu scrutinizes globalization through works that combine found materials and magazine cutouts with sculpture and painted imagery. Sampling from sources as diverse as African traditions, international politics, the fashion industry, pornography, and science fiction, her work explores issues of gender, race, war, colonialism, global consumption, and the exoticization of the black female body.

On view will be Mutu's monumental collages, among them new and rarely seen works, thematically selected to focus on the relationship between her figures and their otherworldly environments. Both lushly tropical and post-apocalyptic, her Afrofuturist landscapes feature cyborgian figures pieced together from human, animal, machine, and monster parts. Commissioned for the exhibition and created in collaboration with the recording artist Santigold, Mutu's first-ever animated video—*The End of Eating Everything* (2013)—expands upon these themes while translating her aesthetic into a new medium.

As a central element of the exhibition, selections from Mutu's sketchbooks will trace aspects of her creative process from her student days in the 1990s to current projects and provide insight into the origins of her inspiration. In addition, Mutu will expand on her interest in landscape, transforming the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art with her installations, including a site-specific wall work combining painting, collage and sculpted elements, a hanging sculpture, and evocations of trees and roots that encroach upon portions of the gallery.

Wangechi Mutu earned a BFA at Cooper Union College, New York, in 1996 and a MFA at Yale University in 2000. Her work has been shown in solo exhibitions at the Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin; the Wiels

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Contemporary Museum, Brussels; the Art Gallery of Ontario; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Sydney Museum of Contemporary Art; and other venues. A participant in numerous biennial and triennial exhibitions, she exhibited her work most recently in the 2012 Kochi-Muziris Biennale in India. In 2004, a site-specific wall drawing by Mutu was part of the Brooklyn Museum's exhibition *Open House: Working in Brooklyn*, and her work has been featured in group exhibitions at many other major museums nationally and internationally, including the Palais de Tokyo, Paris; the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate Liverpool; the Vancouver Art Gallery; Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; and Moderna Museet, Stockholm. Wangechi Mutu was named as the first Deutsche Bank "Artist of the Year" in 2010 and is the recipient of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant and the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant, among others.

Wangechi Mutu: A Fantastic Journey is accompanied by an illustrated full-color catalogue that includes an interview with the artist conducted by the exhibition's curator, Trevor Schoonmaker, and essays by Schoonmaker, art historian Kristine Stiles, and critic and musician Greg Tate.

Wangechi Mutu: A Fantastic Journey is organized by the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University by Trevor Schoonmaker, Patsy R. and Raymond D. Nasher Curator of Contemporary Art. The Brooklyn presentation is organized by Saisha Grayson, Assistant Curator, Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, Brooklyn Museum.

A variety of public programs, including films, performances, and talks, will be presented in conjunction with the exhibition. For more information visit www.brooklynmuseum.org.

This exhibition is made possible by the Elizabeth A. Sackler Foundation.

Tour:

Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University: March 21 through July 21, 2013

Brooklyn Museum: October 11, 2013 through March 9, 2014

The Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami: April 2014

Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University: September 2014

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