

Wangechi Mutu
Banana Stroke

A Performa 17 Commission

Mon, Nov. 13, 7:00pm

Tue, Nov. 14, 7:00pm

The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium

Duration: approximately 1 hour

**Performa 17
Biennial
November 1-19**

Artist, Performer:
Wangechi Mutu

Curator:
Adrienne Edwards

Producer/Cinematographer/Editor:
Andrew Dru Mungai

Music:
Willy Rama Mbaji
Boaz Otieno Akech
Stephen Okoti Ngala
Erick Baya Thoya

Sound Recordist:
Ronnie Mugambi
Maureen Adhiambo

Costume Design:
Ashaka Givens
Oana Botez

Production:
Raul Zbengheci
Astrid Meek
Hiroko Ishikawa

Set Fabrication and Consultation:
Standard and Supply

Co-presented with Live Arts at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Supported by the Ford Foundation, Gladstone Gallery, Victoria Miro Gallery, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, and the Performa Commissioning Fund.

Special Thanks:

Barbara Gladstone
Victoria Miro
Susanne Vielmetter
Adrienne Edwards
RoseLee Goldberg
Sandra Jackson-Dumont
Limor Tomer
Marsha Reid

New York and Nairobi-based artist Wangechi Mutu builds upon her process for a new body of work in which she uses paper that has been dyed, fermented, or saturated to create abstract paintings in a total, immersive environment—as both artwork and its stage.

Routinely undertaking the objectification of the black female body within popular culture at large with a counter-narrative of assigning supernatural, mystical talents to this population, Mutu illustrates her portraits, collages, performances, and animations from varying points of reference, including medical textbooks on tropical disease, using faint outlines and traditional and grotesque female body forms that have been reappropriated back by the artist. She uses this same visual style to take on issues of mass overconsumption, tenacious sexism, and global environmental wreckage.

The new work is an outgrowth of a live, multimedia performance, and draws on both macro- and micropolitics, from international legislature and its consequences to the public depictions of and details of the lives of women in her native Kenya. The resulting site-specific action painting integrates layers of images of the Kenyan landscape with those of her artistic process, kindling the warmth and intimacy of home within an arena designed for public encounters and spectacle.

Featuring recitations of “A Far Cry from Africa” by Derek Walcott.



Image credit: Banana Stroke, 2017 Site Specific Action Painting
Courtesy of the Artist. Photo Credit: Andrew Dru Mungai

Wangechi Mutu (b. 1972, Kenya) works in New York City and Nairobi. She studied at the Cooper Union and received her MFA from Yale University. She has received the United States Artist Grant (2014), the Brooklyn Museum's Asher B. Durand Artist of the Year Award (2013), and was honored as Deutsche Guggenheim's first Artist of the Year (2010). She has had solo exhibitions at the Deutsche Guggenheim Museum in Berlin, Musée D'art Contemporain de Montréal, Staatliche Kunsthalle in Baden-Baden, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, and the Brooklyn Museum, among others.

*Wangechi Mutu and Adrienne Edwards
in Conversation*

Wednesday, Nov. 15

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Performa 17 Biennial Hub

427 Broadway, NY 10013

Free & Open to Public

The Performa 17 biennial artist and curator discuss the interrelation of abstraction and performance in Mutu's work over the past two years.

Other Events This Week

Kwani Trust

Everyone is Radicalizing

Day 1: Mon, Nov. 13, 2:30pm

Day 2: Tue, Nov. 14, 3:00pm

Day 3: Wed, Nov. 15, 1:00pm

Day 4: Thu, Nov. 16, 1:00pm

Day 5: Fri, Nov. 17, 1:00pm

Performa 17 Biennial Hub, Free

Julie Mehretu and Jason Moran

MASS (HOWL, eon)

Thu, Nov. 16, 7:00pm & 9:00pm

Harlem Parish, \$40 / \$25

Yto Barrada

Tree Identification for Beginners

Fri to Sun, Nov. 17 – 19, 7:00pm

Connelly Theater, \$25 / \$15

VISIT THE PERFORMA 17 HUB

427 Broadway, Soho

New York, NY 10013

Noon – 8PM daily

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17.performa-arts.org

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