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Wangechi Mutu, blackthrone series, 2012. Wooden chairs, plastic, hair and tinsel, dimensions variable. Courtesy the artist and Gladstone Gallery.

WANGECHI MUTU (ART '97)

TUESDAY, APRIL 24 | 12:00 PM

ALUMNISPAC | STUDENT RESIDENCE | 3RD FLOOR

Wangechi Mutu is a Kenyan-born artist currently residing in Brooklyn, New York. Her work is a visceral response to personal and social critiques of gender, culture, and mass media imagery. Exploring the female body as a site of engagement and provocation, her figures are lurking hybrids that possess an abject yet alluring beauty. The artist's signature aesthetic samples from a multitude of image sources such as medical diagrams, glossy magazines, anthropology and botany texts, pornographic materials and traditional African arts, travel postcards, and mechanical and hunting publications. Combined with tactile materials like glitter, fake pearls, and synthetic hair, Mutu's fleshy images occupy environments that are embedded with a physical and conceptual depth, resulting in a distinct form of mythmaking.

Wangechi Mutu was the recipient of Deutsche Bank's 2010 Artist of the Year award. She has exhibited at major institutions including recent one-person shows at Montreal Museum of Contemporary Art, Wiels Contemporary Art Center, Brussels; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and Miami Art Museum. Her work is included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art; The Studio Museum in Harlem; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Montreal Museum of Contemporary Art; and Tate Modern in London.

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