HORROR, BEAUTY AND TRANSCENDENCE

In her first major U.S. exhibition, Wangeci Mutu thinks big

BY GEORGE HICKS

The dreamer and the observer of the absurd: these are the two aspects of the Ukranian poet and playwright Taras Shevchenko, whose work is celebrated in the current exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Mutu has created a series of four large-scale paintings, each of which explores a different aspect of Shevchenko's life and work. The paintings are accompanied by a series of photographs and videos, which together create a comprehensive portrait of the artist. The exhibition is on view through October 17, 2004.

The paintings are all based on Shevchenko's life and work, and they explore a range of themes, from his early years as a referee in the Russian military to his later years as a leading poet and playwright. The paintings are large and colorful, and they are composed of a series of overlapping images, which create a sense of depth and movement. The photographs and videos are also important parts of the exhibition, and they provide additional context for the paintings. The exhibition is a powerful reminder of the power of art to communicate complex ideas and emotions, and it is a fitting tribute to one of the great artists of the 19th century.