Mutu’s latest artistic ‘Journey’

EXHIBIT IS FIRST U.S. CAREER RETROSPECTIVE

WANTAGH artist Mutu’s work is steadily transatlantic, with American roots well established in Europe and Asia. The artist’s exhibition was held at the Winter Garden at the Library of Birmingham, UK. The show featured a range of Mutu’s works, including paintings, sculptures, and installations, which captured the audience’s attention.

The exhibition included several highlights, including a series of large-scale paintings that explored themes of identity and cultural heritage. These works were displayed in a striking white gallery space, allowing the viewer to focus on the rich details of each piece.

Mutu’s sculptures were also on display, with each piece crafted from a variety of materials, including metal, wood, and fabric. The sculptures were positioned throughout the gallery, creating a dynamic and immersive experience for visitors.

The installations were a particular highlight of the exhibition. These works included interactive installations, which encouraged visitors to engage with the art and consider its meaning.

The Winter Garden at the Library of Birmingham provided an ideal setting for this exhibition. The gallery space was modern and spacious, allowing Mutu’s works to be displayed in a way that emphasized their beauty and power.

Overall, the exhibition was a testament to Mutu’s artistic vision and creativity. The works showcased were thought-provoking and moving, leaving a lasting impact on visitors.

The exhibition was part of a larger body of work that Mutu has been developing over the past decade. The artist is known for his unique approach to art, which often draws from personal experiences and cultural influences.

Mutu’s work is the result of a lifetime of exploration and experimentation. Through his art, he explores themes of identity, culture, and human experience, always striving to push the boundaries of what is possible in the world of art.

The exhibition at the Winter Garden was just one stop on Mutu’s artistic journey. He continues to travel the world, connecting with new audiences and sharing his work with people from all walks of life.

Mutu’s latest artistic ‘Journey’ is a testament to his dedication and passion for his craft. Through his art, he continues to inspire and move people, encouraging them to think deeply about the world around them.

The exhibition at the Winter Garden was a beautiful and thought-provoking experience. It was a celebration of Mutu’s artistic journey and a reminder of the power of art to inspire and transform.

The exhibition was on display until the end of September. Visitors were encouraged to visit the Winter Garden at the Library of Birmingham to experience Mutu’s latest artistic ‘Journey’ firsthand.

For more information about Mutu’s work, visit his website at mutu-art.com. To learn more about upcoming exhibitions and events, follow Mutu’s social media accounts on Instagram and Facebook.
Nasher rides Mutu’s ‘Fantastic Journey’

EXHIBIT

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ical perceptions of African culture.

"Her collages and drawings are grotesque but also erotic," Schoonmaker said. "Certainly the violence in her work equals the beauty in it. There's a lot about power dynamics and hierarchies, interplay between big and small figures where it's not clear who is prop- ping up who. She creates this other-worldly fairy tale realm with beautiful images plus a menacing aspect, which enables her to talk about important social, political and cultural issues. It's not hand-fisted or didactic, it's very layered and subtle—her message if not the imagery."

Most of "A Fantastic Journey" consists of pictures on walls, but there are also a few striking videos. "Amazing Grace" shows Mutu walking into the ocean while singing the well-known spiritual in the Kikuyu dialect of her native Kenya. And "The End of Eating Everything," a collaboration with the pop star Santigold, is a disturbing and somewhat eerie meditation on gluttony and anarchy.

"A lot of her works are about the idea of consumption," Schoonmaker said. "Society and the media's consumption of women comes up a lot, as does everyone consuming natural resources without care for the future. She brings together all these crazy elements. Her women are composite figures constructed from cutouts of animals and ethnographic imagery in National Geographic, fashion magazines, even pornography. And she'll also use pictures from motorcycle magazines to create this cyborg-looking robotic effect, everything is interconnected. Hybridity is a huge element in her work."

This said, some parts of the show display a playful aspect. The gallery space has been integrated into the show to an unusual degree for a contemporary-art exhibit, with a tree-like piece made from felt-like blankets to evoke the feel of a dark forest.

One of the first things you'll encounter inside the gallery is "Suspended Playtime," 44 balls made from trash bags and shredded paper. They're in a close cluster that you can just barely walk through, suspended from the ceiling to just above the floor. It looks like something you'd see in a children's play space.

"That mimics the not-so-expert footballs that kids make in poor places where they can't afford to buy them."

Mutu said, "I wanted to rework this idea of using discarded materials to build something, and for the piece to be playful. For some reason, kids understand this immediately in a visceral and intuitive way and know what to do with it. Adults are less likely to walk in it, while kids are very drawn to it. They're all near the ground where young people can assess them with their playful intellects."

Mencen: 919-629-4759 or blogs.newsobserver.com/beat

David Allison - Courtesy of the Museum of Modern Art


Details

What: "Wangechi Mutu: A Fantastic Journey."

Where: Through July 21

Where: Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, 2001 Campus Drive, Durham.

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, closed Mondays.

Cost: $5 adults, $4 seniors; free to Nasher members, children 15 and under and Duke students, faculty, staff and alumni; free, 5-9 p.m. Thursday.

Info: 919-660-4444 or nasher.duke.edu/mutu