



Wangechi Mutu

February 15 – March 30



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Antoinette Westphal
College of Media Arts & Design



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Leonard
Pearlstein Gallery

Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design



Provocative Kenyan Artist **Wangechi Mutu's Exhibition** to Open Drexel's Newly Expanded **Leonard Pearlstein Gallery**

PHILADELPHIA (February, 2013)—The work of provocative Kenyan-born, Brooklyn-based artist Wangechi Mutu will be featured as the inaugural exhibition of the newly expanded Leonard Pearlstein Gallery in Drexel University's Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design from Friday, February 15 through Sunday, March 30.

Using a *mélange* of materials such as magazine cuttings, paint, charcoal, glitter and found objects, Mutu's work explores themes ranging from female identity and definitions of beauty, western and traditional cultures, environmental desecration and the history of post-colonial Africa. The exhibition will feature more than 10 collections of collages, sculptures and installations, including such highly regarded works as *Suspended Playtime*, which explores Kenyan children's inventive practice of making soccer balls out of bundled and bound garbage bags, and *The Histology of the Different Tumors of the Uterus*, which is a series of collages based on early 20th century medical illustrations.

Described as "one of the most exciting artists working in collage today" by the *New York Times*, Mutu's work is housed in the permanent collections of The Museum of Modern Art (New York), The Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles), The Whitney Museum of American Art (New York) and has been featured in numerous collections throughout the world.

An opening celebration and reception will be held at the gallery on Friday, February 22, at 5 p.m. Noted Philadelphia poet Sonia Sanchez will perform new work written to complement Mutu's art, and acclaimed dancer Tania Isaac, a member of the Drexel Dance faculty, has choreographed a new piece to be performed by members of Drexel Dance Ensemble.

The new Leonard Pearlstein Gallery has over 3,500 square feet and was designed by the architectural firm of Meyer, Scherer and Rockcastle. It is located at the URBN Center Annex (3401 Filbert St.).

Mutu was born in Kenya and raised in Wales before moving to New York to study anthropology at The New School for Social Research and Parsons School of Art and Design. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 1996 and an Master of Fine Arts degree from Yale in 2000. She currently lives in Brooklyn, and is represented by Barbara Gladstone in New York, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects in Los Angeles and Victoria Miro Gallery in London. She was awarded the 2010 Deutsche Guggenheim Artist of the Year.

Event Facts

Who:

Wangechi Mutu, Sonia Sanchez, and Tania Isaac

What:

The Opening Exhibition of the Leonard Pearlstein Gallery

Where:

The Leonard Pearlstein Gallery,
The URBN Center Annex (3401 Filbert St.)

When:

Opening Reception Friday, February 22 – 5:00 PM
Exhibition Runs February 15 – March 30

Tickets:

Free and open to the public

More Information:

drexel.edu/westphal

About the New

Leonard Pearlstein Gallery

Total square footage: 4650.

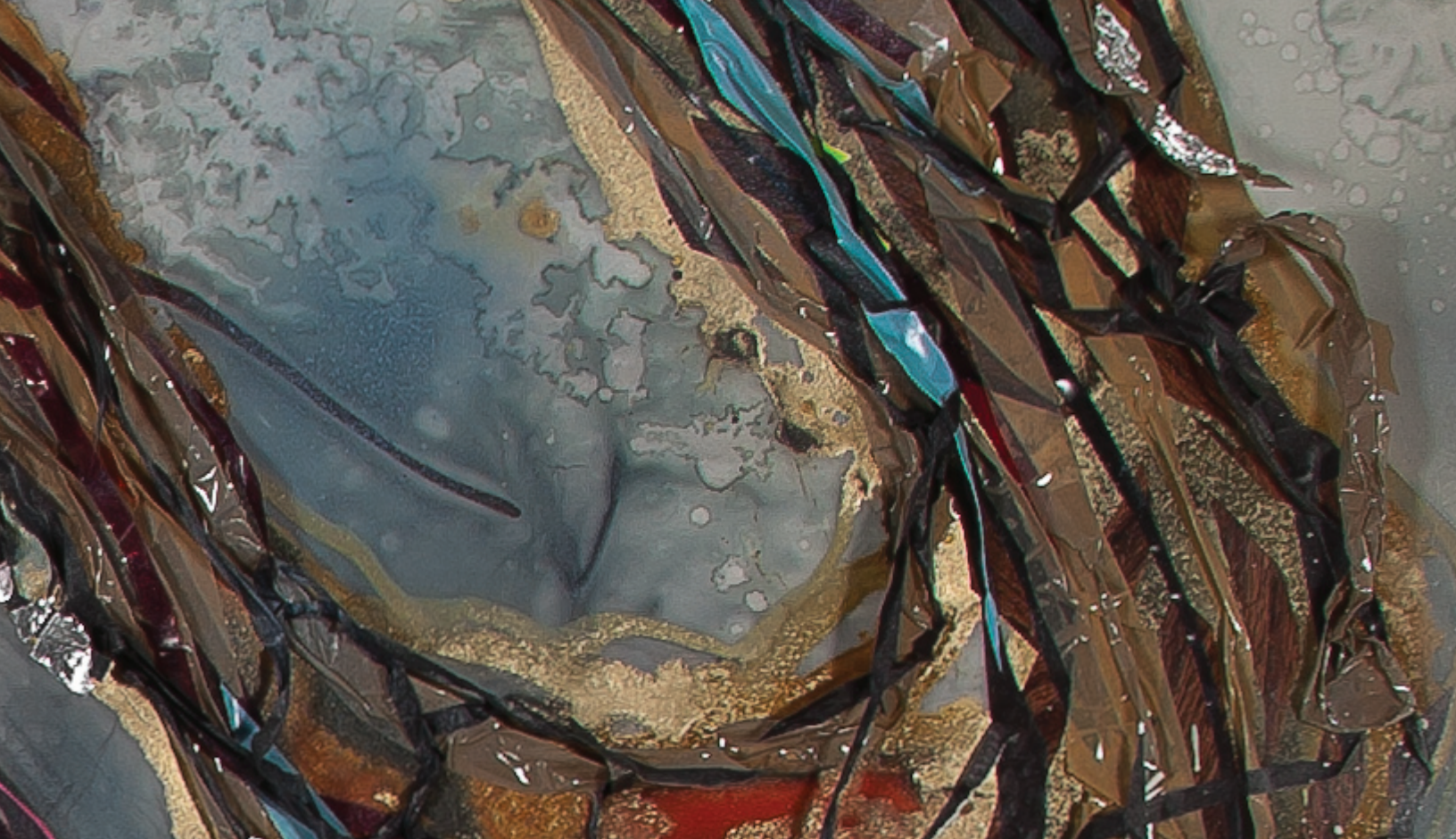
Represents more than five times the square footage of the original gallery. Original gallery set at 770 square feet

258 feet of total hanging space: 176 feet in seven separate segments, 86 feet divided between two walls and 96 feet broken down in 8 wall sections.

Climate controls can maintain a 50% relative humidity fluctuation that is no greater than 20% plus or minus: museum standard

Lighting is controllable at 50-150 lux: museum standard

There is 475 square feet of storage space and 100 square feet of office space



Biography: **Wangechi Mutu**

Wangechi Mutu earned her MFA at Yale University in 2000 and a BFA at Cooper Union College, New York.

Her work has been shown in solo exhibitions at the Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin, Germany, the Wiels Museum, Brussels, Belgium; the Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada; the San Francisco Museum of Contemporary Art, at the Miami Art Museum, at ArtPace, San Antonio, Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Baden-Baden, Germany, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Montreal, Canada, Kunsthalle Wien, Project Space Karlsplatz, Vienna, Austria, as well as Barbara Gladstone Gallery, New York, NY, and Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK, among others.

Recent group exhibitions include the Glassell School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, TX; La Triennale at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France; Museum of Modern Art, Arnhem, Arnhem, Netherlands; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY; "30 Americans", Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; Prospect.1 New Orleans, The New Orleans Biennial, New Orleans, LA; the Bronx Museum, NY; The Geffen Contemporary at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles, CA; the Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, UK; The Third ICP Triennial of Photography and Video, International Center of Photography; the Vancouver Art Gallery, BC, Canada; The 10th Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art, Lyon, France; the

San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA; Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ; Blaffer Gallery, the Art Museum of the University of Houston, Houston, TX, The New Museum, New York, NY, DESTE Foundation, Athens, Greece; the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Denver, CO; the Brooklyn Museum, New York; the Royal Academy of Art, London, UK; SITE Santa Fe's 6th Biennial", SITE Santa Fe, NM, "The 2nd Seville Biennale", Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo, Sevilla, Spain, the Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO; Kunstpalast Duesseldorf, Duesseldorf, Germany, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Hayward Gallery, London; and Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden.

Wangechi Mutu has been awarded the Deutsche Bank's "Artist of the Year" award and she is the recipient of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant, the Cooper Union Urban Visionaries Awards, Emerging Talent Award, the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Award New York, NY; and the Chrysalis Award, The Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Art, New York, NY.

In 2013 she will have an exhibition at the Sydney Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, Australia, the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, as well as Drexel University's Leonard Pearlstein Gallery in Philadelphia and at the Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York City. Her work will be featured in the 2012 Kochi-Muziris Biennale, held in Kochi-Muziris, India.



Biography: **Tania Isaac**

Tania Isaac is a Caribbean-American dancer/choreographer who fuses choreography with personal documentary and social commentary to grapple with identity, post-colonial issues, feminism and juxtapositions of European and African influences. She graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received her MFA in dance from Temple University. Her most recent writing is included in Susanna Sloat's anthology *Making Caribbean Dance* (University Press of Florida, 2010). Isaac is a former member of David Dorfman Dance, Urban Bush Women and Rennie Harris Puremovement. She has received grants from the Independence Foundation, Dance Advance, National Performance Network, Leeway Foundation, Harlem Stage Fund for New Work and is the recipient of a 2011 Pew Charitable Trusts Artists Fellowship.

She has been a speaker with the Pennsylvania Humanities Council creating presentations based on *Contemporary Caribbean Dance in Historical and Social Context*, which

launched the PHC Speakers' *WHYY* TV series. Her current work are explorations of a creative method she calls the "Open Notebook" a way of turning a room into a laboratory of investigation and participatory dance. The "Open Notebook" was developed and expanded through residencies at the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography in 2006 and 2009.

Isaac has been on the faculty of Bates Dance Festival, a Resident Artist at Painted Bride Art Center in Philadelphia, and a US/JAPAN Exchange Artist through Philadelphia Dance Projects, Dance Theater Workshop and the Japan Foundation. She has also taught and performed across the U.S. She is a current MacDowell Fellow (2012). "I fell in love with the idea that moving could be intellectual practice in itself," says Isaac. "I enjoy the messy, exhausting and challenging process of bringing things to life."



Biography: **Sonia Sanchez**

Poet, professor, national and international lecturer on Black Culture and Literature, Women's Liberation, Peace and Racial Justice. Sponsor of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Board Member of MADRE. **Sonia Sanchez** is the author of over 16 books including *Homecoming*, *We a BaddDDD People*, *Love Poems*, *I've Been a Woman*, *A Sound Investment and Other Stories*, *Homegirls and Handgrenades*, *Under a Soprano Sky*, *Wounded in the House of a Friend* (Beacon Press, 1995), *Does Your House Have Lions?* (Beacon Press, 1997), *Like the Singing Coming off the Drums* (Beacon Press, 1998), *Shake Loose My Skin* (Beacon Press, 1999), and most recently, *Morning Haiku* (Beacon Press, 2010).

In addition to being a contributing editor to *Black Scholar* and *The Journal of African Studies*, she has edited an anthology, *We Be Word Sorcerers: 25 Stories by Black Americans*. *BMA: The Sonia Sanchez Literary Review* is the first African American Journal that discusses the work of Sonia Sanchez and the Black Arts Movement. A recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts, the Lucretia Mott Award for 1984, the Outstanding Arts Award from the Pennsylvania Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Community Service Award from the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, she is a winner of the 1985 American Book Award for *Homegirls and Handgrenades*, the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Humanities for 1988, the Peace and Freedom Award from Women International League for Peace and Freedom (W.I.L.P.F.) for 1989, a PEW Fellowship in the Arts for

1992-1993 and the recipient of Langston Hughes Poetry Award for 1999. *Does Your House Have Lions?* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. She is the Poetry Society of America's 2001 Robert Frost Medalist and a Ford Freedom Scholar from the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Her poetry also appeared in the movie *Love Jones*.

Sonia Sanchez has lectured at over 500 universities and colleges in the United States and has traveled extensively, reading her poetry in Africa, Cuba, England, the Caribbean, Australia, Europe, Nicaragua, the People's Republic of China, Norway, and Canada. She was the first Presidential Fellow at Temple University and she held the Laura Carnell Chair in English at Temple University. She is the recipient of the Harper Lee Award, 2004, Alabama Distinguished Writer, and the National Visionary Leadership Award for 2006. She is the recipient of the 2005 Leeway Foundation Transformational Award. Currently, Sonia Sanchez is one of 20 African American women featured in "Freedom Sisters," an interactive exhibition created by the Cincinnati Museum Center and Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition and she was the recipient of the Robert Creeley award in March of 2009.



Previous Exhibition Highlights of the Leonard Pearlstein Gallery

Ink Not Ink

Curated by the Shenzhen Art Museum and an expert panel of Chinese critics and curators, INK not INK was the first survey-scale exhibition of contemporary Chinese art ever presented in the Mid-Atlantic region. More than 80 paintings, prints, sculptures, and videos by 40 Chinese artists, including renowned figures such as Wenda Gu, Wei Qingji, and Lin Tianmiao were presented. A symposium on contemporary ink painting was held along with a gala celebration to open INK not INK. The exhibition was held at three different locations at Drexel University and made possible by the generous support of the Ministry of Culture of the P. R. of China, the Marketing Division of the Ministry of Culture of the P. R. of China, the Shenzhen Foundation of Cultural Promotion and Development, Beijing Zhongwenfa International Cultural Exchange Co., Ltd, Continental Airlines and HSBC.

Ni Una Mas

A powerful art exhibition that examined gender violence, Ni Una Mas featured more than 20 international artists including Kiki Smith, Nancy Spero, Miguel Calderon, Yoko Ono, and Tim Rollins & KOS. The exhibition intended to raise awareness of the more than 700 women, many poor factory workers, some as young as 12 years old, that have been abducted and brutally killed since 1993 in the border town of Juarez, Mexico. The exhibition opened with ARTMARCH, a massive demonstration and performance art piece, presented in partnership with Amnesty International, involving hundreds of student and members of the community.

Half the Sky

A historic exhibition of contemporary Chinese women artists that was co-curated by the National Art Museum of China (NAMOC) and the Leonard Pearlstein Gallery. It was the first survey-scale exhibition of its kind in the United States. More than 60 pieces of artwork by 22 women artists, including painting, photography, sculpture, video and installation were displayed. A select group of Chinese dignitaries and artists attended the opening reception including Fan Di'an, Director of the National Art Museum of China; Yin Xiuzhen, an internationally acclaimed artist who represented China in the 2007 Venice Biennale; and Cui Xiuwen, a world renowned photographer.

Alexandra's Forgiveness

Lital Dotan & Eyal Perry are an Israeli couple working together since 2001 who turned more their Tel Aviv home into a dynamic installation with multiple works throughout the house. Their works use a wide variety of mediums such as video, performance, photography and installation. As Israeli artists, their reality of life influences their work constantly, highlighting issues of emotional & social structures and intimacy & boundaries.

Alongside the philosophical and sociological aspects of their works, Lital Dotan & Eyal Perry always try to challenge the mediums they use, whether it involves cutting edge or low technology, aiming to explore new approaches to video installations, photography and performance.

New Photography: Andrea Modica

Westphal College Photography Professor Andrea Modica presented photographs from her series Fountain, Colorado, as well as the premiere of 11x14 platinum prints. After moving to Colorado in the late 1990s, Modica became interested in the unique world of the slaughterhouse and the professional and personal lives of those who make it their livelihood. For nine years, Andrea documented the children of the Baker family who run a slaughterhouse in Fountain, Colorado. Her photographs record her gradual immersion into the Baker family as photos of the exterior of the slaughterhouse give way to private photographs taken in the family's dimly-lit basement.

Andrea is a Guggenheim fellow and has exhibited her work extensively in the United State and Europe. Her photographs are featured in the permanent collections of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian Institute, the Museum of Modern Art New York, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

Selected Works of Wangechi Mutu

Pin-Up

2001, Ink & Collage on Paper, Courtesy of the Artist.



Pin-Up

2001, Ink & Collage on Paper, Courtesy of the Artist.



Pin-Up

2001, Ink & Collage on Paper, Courtesy of the Artist.

Pin-Up

2001, Ink & Collage on Paper, Courtesy of the Artist.

The Histology of the Different Tumors of the Uterus

2001, Collage on Medical Illustration paper, 18 x 12", Courtesy the artist and Susanne Vielmetter LA Projects



The Histology of the Different Tumors of the Uterus

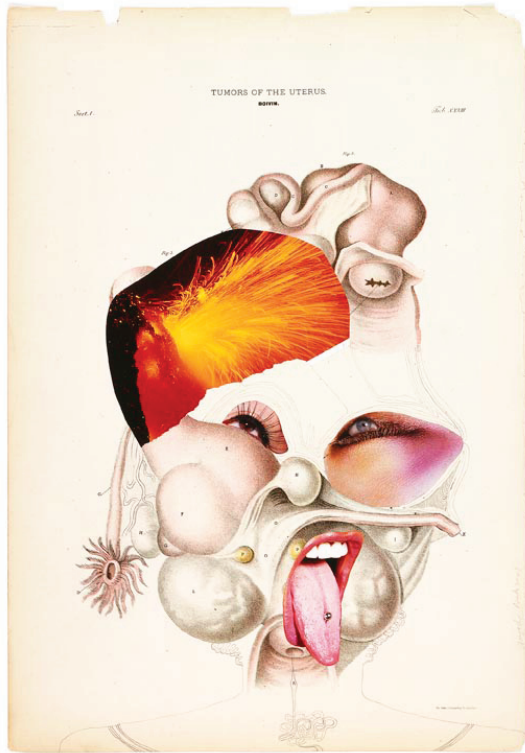
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About the

Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design

Drexel University's Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design offers sixteen undergraduate and five graduate programs in media, design and the performing arts. Programs are taught in small studio settings, featuring hands-on learning and an award-winning faculty of industry practitioners who emphasize the use of the latest technologies. Westphal College is home to the Mandell Theater, the Pearlstein Gallery, Drexel's television (DUTV) and radio (WKDU 91.7 FM) stations, the Rudman Institute for Entertainment Industry Studies, MAD Dragon Records and Drexel's Historic Costume Collection. Allen Sabinson is the dean of the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design.

For more information about the College, go to:
www.drexel.edu/westphal.

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