GLADSTONE GALLERY

"Mutu's Enchanted Forest," Art in America, March 2013, p. 27.



Mutu's Enchanted Forest

The galleries of Duke University's Nasher Museum of Art, in Durham, N.C., will be transformed into an environment resembling a dense forest as part of "Wangechi Mutu: A Fantastic Journey" (Mar. 21-July 21). It's the first time the Nairobiborn, Brooklyn-based artist has created such an installation in a U.S. exhibition. Mutu is known for collages, in a distinct style often called afrofuturist, featuring grotesque hybrid creatures who inhabit surreal landscapes.

The show includes the debut of Mutu's first digitally animated video, created with pop producer and singer Santigold, and the first public display of Mutu's sketchbooks. "She's hardly shown these to anyone," Trevor Schoonmaker, the museum's curator of contemporary art, told A.i.A. Comprising more than 40 works dating from the mid-'90s to the present, the show travels to the Brooklyn Museum [Sept. 27, 2013-Mar. 9, 2014].

Wangechi Mutu, Riding Death in My Sleep, 2002, ink and collage on paper, 60 by 44 inches.