

GLADSTONE GALLERY

"Wangechi Mutu is Deutsche Bank's artist of the year 2010," *WallStreetJournalBlog*,
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Wangechi Mutu is Deutsche Bank's artist of the year 2010

For artists, the only thing more coveted than a cash prize is a major museum exhibition. That's what Deutsche Bank is offering to its new Artist of the Year — Wangechi Mutu, a Nairobi-born artist who now lives in New York. Instead of a grant, the bank said today it plans to underwrite a solo show of Mutu's latest work at the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin. The exhibit will open April 30.

Mutu is known for exploring society's stereotypes of female beauty and exoticism by creating writhing portraits of women whose eyes and lips have often been cut from fashion magazines. She was chosen for the award by curators including Okwui Enwezor, Nancy Spector and Hou Hanru, according to Friedhelm Hütte, the bank's global head of art.

In a telephone interview this morning, Mutu said she plans to create an "intimate, warm space" within the museum by covering its walls and windows with coarse, gray blankets — the kind typically used by Kenya's working poor or by moving companies in the West as packing material. One blanketed wall will double as a screen for her new video, "Mud," which she said depicts a naked woman standing in a small, dungeon-like space, wailing as she is pelted by mud falling overhead.

Other works will include an assemblage of several dozen wine bottles, each outfitted with a valve so that wine can seep out one drop at a time. Mutu said she hopes the wine will be allowed to pool at the feet of passersby but added, "The museum may want to clean it up before it gets really rancid."



Wangechi Mutu and Susanne Vielmetter

Untitled, 2009