Deutsche Bank presents Wangechi Mutu, Artist of the Year 2010, at WIELS, Brussels

Deutsche Bank’s Artist of the Year 2010 Wangechi Mutu created a spectacular installation with My Dirty Little Heaven. After its premiere at the Deutsche Guggenheim, her exhibit now travels to Brussels, where it will be presented from June 25 to September 12 at WIELS. In addition to the installation, around 40 paintings, collages and videos will provide insight into Wangechi Mutu’s fascinating oeuvre. Mutu, who was born in 1972 in Nairobi, Kenya and now lives in New York, is among the most interesting artists of her generation.

WIELS, the most important forum for international contemporary art in Brussels, is an ideal platform for My Dirty Little Heaven, as Wangechi Mutu’s work is dedicated to internationality, diversity, and the linking of artistic questions with social concerns—themes that also play a pivotal role in Deutsche Bank’s commitment to art. Furthermore, the exhibition will be on view during the commemoration of 50 Years of Independence of 17 African States and the Belgian Presidency of the EU.

My Dirty Little Heaven possesses a spiritual dimension, yet the installation is foremost dedicated to the here and now, to mundane fears, needs, and longings. In a time in which large parts of mankind live below the poverty line, without access to sufficient food, education and equality, Mutu’s vision of heaven also remains imperfect and anything but pure: pieced together, dirty and improvised, full of scents, sensuous impressions and images, in which bodies, machines, and commodities are inextricably merged. Her work calls into question our notions of beauty, our image of the other, of the alien.

Unlike other awards, Artist of the Year is not connected with a money prize, but is firmly anchored in Deutsche Bank’s art program, with which the bank has created worldwide access to contemporary art for 30 years. The highlight of the program each year is a solo exhibition of the Artist of the Year at the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin and at other venues such as WIELS. Furthermore, the bank acquires a selection of works on paper by the artist for its collection. In the case of Wangechi Mutu, the acquired works will be on view on an entire floor of Deutsche Bank’s modernized headquarters starting at the end of 2010.
Wangechi Mutu: My Dirty Little Heaven
June 25 – September 12, 2010
WIELS Contemporary Art Centre
Av. Van Volxemlaan 354, 1190 Brussels, Belgium

More information about the exhibition: www.wiels.org
More information on the bank’s art activities: www.db-artmag.com

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