

Wangechi Mutu: *The Seaspirit*

Exhibition: 18 July–29 August 2026

Victoria Miro Venice, San Marco 1994, 30124 Venice, Italy



Wangechi Mutu, *Snakebiter*, 2026
Ink, collage and mixed media on watercolour paper
60.5 x 45.5 cm
23 7/8 x 17 7/8 in
© Wangechi Mutu
Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro

Victoria Miro is delighted to present *The Seaspirit*, an exhibition of new collage-paintings by Wangechi Mutu.

Wangechi Mutu engages in a distinctive form of mythmaking, often connecting the human body with the natural world. For her forthcoming exhibition, the artist returns to the subject of water, a theme she has explored throughout her practice, not only as a mythical realm but also as a fragile, symbiotic ecosystem.

In a new series of collage-paintings, Mutu conjures a cast of feminine water spirits – figures that are at once powerful, awe-inspiring and unsettling. Imagined as protectors, companions and guides, these aquatic beings can be understood as symbolic inhabitants of both the sea and the subconscious. Created with Venice in mind, this body of work resonates with the city's enigmatic character – a place where land and water, history and myth, continually converge.

Wangechi Mutu exhibits in the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, *In Minor Keys*, curated by Koyo Kouoh (until 22 November 2026).

In *The End, Where All began, EdEN*, on view in the Giardini, Mutu presents a cosmological installation that reimagines the Garden of Eden, inspired by the origin story of her ancestral people and filtered through an eco-feminist, African diasporic lens.

The bronze sculpture *SimbiSiren*, on view in the Arsenale, is her latest iteration of aquatic creatures that fuse woman, animal and the supernatural. The title refers to a Kongo freshwater guardian spirit who mediates between the living and ancestral worlds.

About the artist

Born in 1972 in Nairobi, Kenya, Wangechi Mutu works in painting, collage, sculpture, film and performance. In exploring and subverting visual tropes from popular culture, Mutu challenges dominant narratives around race, sexuality, ecology and global politics to create her own form of mythmaking. Her work often counters the misrepresentation and oppression of women: hybrid figures referencing cultural history, science fiction and folklore recur as emblems of feminine agency.

Over the past two decades Mutu has exhibited extensively in international forums. She is the recipient of the 2026 National Gallery with Art Fund Contemporary Artist Fellowship, which will culminate in an exhibition at the National Gallery, London (9 October 2027–6 February 2028) and at The Whitworth, Manchester (Spring 2028). In 2025 she became the first living female artist to exhibit at Rome's Galleria Borghese with *Black Soil Poems*.

Recent solo exhibitions include New Orleans Museum of Art (2024); New Museum, New York (2023); Storm King Art Center, New Windsor (2022); Legion of Honor, San Francisco (2021); and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2018). In 2019 Mutu was awarded the Metropolitan Museum of Art's inaugural Façade Commission. Mutu's work featured at the 56th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, *All the World's Futures*, curated by Okwui Enwezor, and has been presented in numerous exhibitions across Europe, including in London, Paris, Rome, Munich and Vienna. She was Artist Honoree at the Baltimore Museum of Art (2025); Storm King Art Center (2024); Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art (2024); Nasher Museum of Art (2023); the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art (2018); and the Hirshhorn Museum (2017).

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