

The submissions for this assignment are posts in the assignment's discussion. Below are the discussion posts for Yungfong Tang, or you can [view the full discussion](#).

from [Explore Art of the 20th Century](#)

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### ***Magnificent Monkey-ass Lies, 2004, Wangechi Mutu***

Last May, I visited the New Museum in New York City (Fig. 2) and spent a whole day for the amazing solo exhibition *Intertwined* showcasing many sculptures and collages made by Kenyan artist Wangechi Mutu. *Magnificent Monkey-ass Lies*, made by Mutu in 2004 is one of the large collage “portraits” that caught my eyes (Fig. 1 & 3). This work is huge! It is 82 1/4 inch. x 45 7/8 inch. with a frame. It is made by “paint, ink, collage and mixed media on Mylar”. Mutu illustrated two figures in the work (“Magnificent Monkey-Ass Lies.”; Fig. 4): On the left is a female human figure with Chicken’s claws on her feet. She has only one left arm. A single leg monkey stands on her left hand. The two characters are looking gently toward each other. Mutu combined many different artistic techniques in this work. First, she painted this work on Mylar instead of canvas or paper and made a smooth and translucent effect (Fig. 5 & 10). She applied layers of splashing paints, ink, and collages on top of each other to create the depth of the scene (Fig. 6 & 7). She also carved collage in different curved lines to create hair and decoration (Fig. 8). I am mostly attracted by how she combines different facial components, each from a different photo, to create the face of a new figure (Fig. 9). Her work totally changed my perspective about the value and creativity of collage in art making and inspired me to create many collage arts after that New York trip.

During the exhibition, I saw many other paintings and sculptures by Mutu. All of them explore the form of female figures. Mutu opened my eyes to how an artist could present lively figures to the viewers. She also challenges the concept of female representation in art making.

#### **Works Cited**

“Magnificent Monkey-Ass Lies.” *Studio Museum in Harlem*, [www.studiomuseum.org/artworks/magnificent-monkey-ass-lies](http://www.studiomuseum.org/artworks/magnificent-monkey-ass-lies). Accessed 9 Feb. 2024.

#### **Illustrations**



Fig. 1 Magnificent Monkey-ass Lies, 2004, Wangeci Mutu



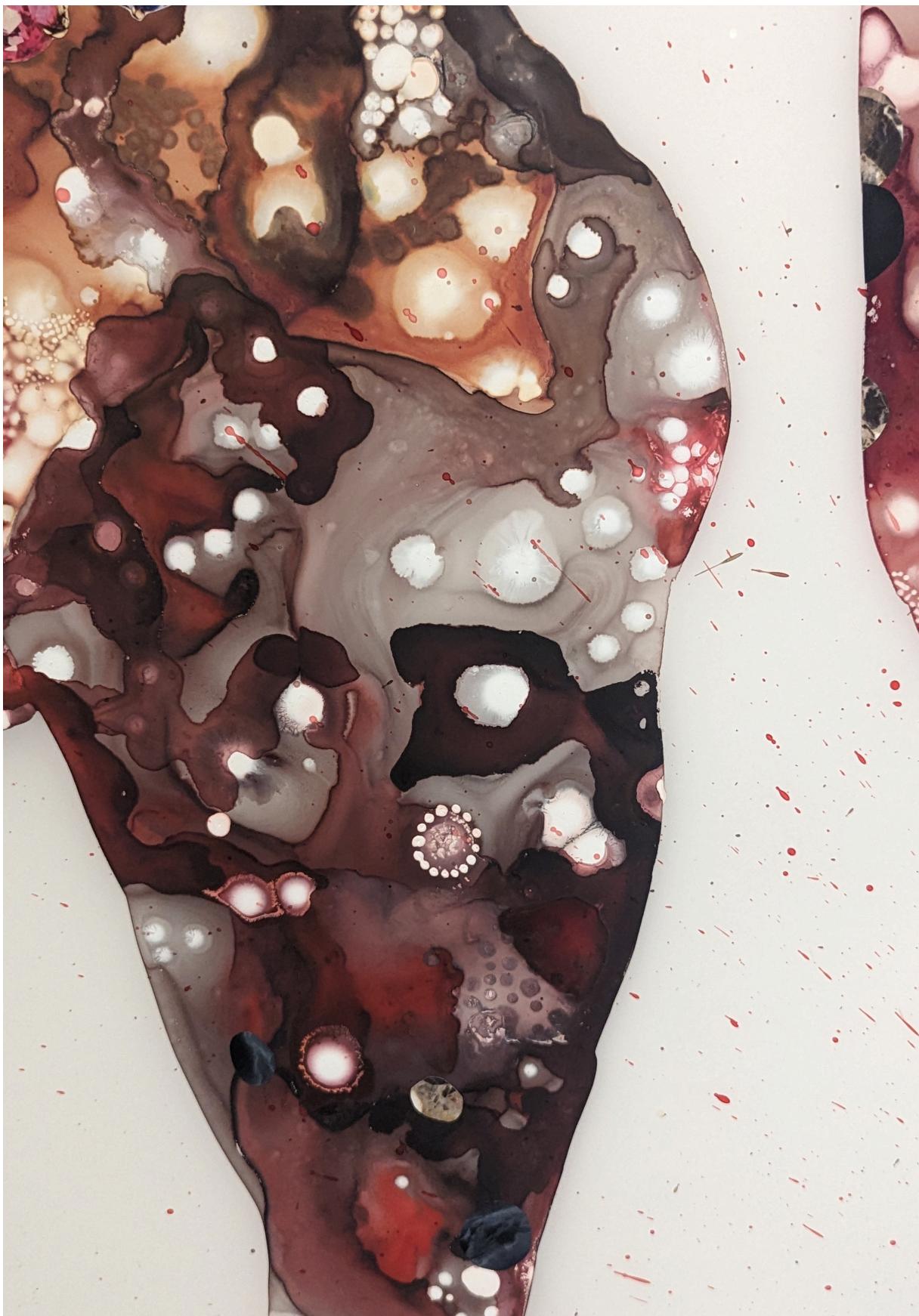
**Fig. 2 Author in front of New Museum, New York City, May 2023**



**Fig. 3 Author in front of *Magnificent Monkey-ass Lies* in New Museum, New York  
May 2023**

***Magnificent Monkey-ass Lies, 2004***  
Paint, ink, collage, and mixed media on Mylar  
The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York. Museum purchase with funds provided by the Acquisition Committee and a gift from Jerome Stern, New York

**Fig. 4 Museum label for the work**



**Fig. 5 Details of the work on the hip portion of the main character in the paint**



**Fig. 6 Details of the work showing how the artist utilize collage on this wor**



**Fig. 7 Details of the work showing how the artist splashing paints over some co  
then covered by other collage to form the depth of the scene**



**Fig. 8** Details of the work showing how the artist carved curved lines of collage create a new form



**Fig. 9 Details of the work showing how the artist combined eyes and lips from different photo to recreate a new face**



**Fig. 10 Details of the work showing how the artist render the ink on Mylar to create translucent effect**