



Sandra Mujinga
Worldview
May 5 – August 29, 2021

Worldview is the first institutional solo exhibition in the United States by Sandra Mujinga. Mujinga's works, which move between physical and digital spaces, are concerned with visibility and the avoidance of surveillance or capture. Drawing on Afrofuturist fiction and posthuman thought, several recent bodies of work have imagined speculative worlds in which hybrid characters have adopted technologies and techniques from forms of nonhuman life, such as nocturnality, mutability and camouflage, to evade threat or simply to live.

At SI, Mujinga has dramatically reduced the size of the lower level gallery, creating an enclosed space from which a serene video landscape is seen beyond a set of windows. Is a screen a portal? Does it present a possibility for escape? If so, to where? Displayed through the windows, *Worldview*'s central eight-hour video, shot with a stationary camera, has the meditative presence of a YouTube relaxation video or a screensaver, in which only subtle forms of movement are reminders that the landscape is not a still image. The core footage was shot at the innermost part of Norwegian fjords at Gudvangen (from the Old Norse for "a god's place near the water"), an area in the west of the country in which Pagan and Norse ritual sites have been uncovered in archeological excavations. The landscape includes many details common to a 19th century European painting such as imposing snow-capped mountains, a peaceful body of water, and relatively diminutive signs of habitation including a small jetty and a boat. A melancholic musical score with elegiac synth, however, suggests that this land could be viewed through the lens of science fiction.

In previous works Mujinga has explored the implications of color and light, and has drawn a connection between black and chroma key green: the overwhelming multitude of black as the sum of all colors, in contrast to the green screen as a void in which anything can be placed in digital post production. Building on those concepts, *Worldview* features an atmosphere of full northern sunlight. In these bright, clear conditions, time is a tool for survival. Gods, monsters and other beings with exaggerated humanoid bodies move through this environment, mostly escaping the detection of visitors by biding their time. Birds fly in and out of the scene, clouds pass the sun, and the wind troubles the surface of the water. The co-inhabitants of this world seem not to care about the watchers, but nonetheless, they prefer not to risk too much visibility.

Sandra Mujinga, *Worldview*, 2021

Video installation

8 hours

Camera (Landscape): Mamadee King Kabba

Camera (Studio): Andre Katombe

3D Animation: Justin Swinburne

Model: Mieri Joak

Assistants: Sjur Einen Sævik and Zuzana Pabi

Courtesy of the artist, Croy Nielsen, Vienna and The Approach, London

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New York



This exhibition is organized by Laura McLean-Ferris, Chief Curator, with Alison Coplan, Curator.

About Sandra Mujinga

Sandra Mujinga (b. 1989, Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo) lives and works in Berlin and Oslo. Recent solo exhibitions include *Midnight*, Vleeshal, Middelburg (2020); *SONW - Shadow of New Worlds*, Kunsthall Bergen (2019); *AMNESIA? AMNESIA?* Noplace, Oslo (2019); *Hoarse Globules*, UKS, Oslo (2018); *Calluses*, Tranen, Copenhagen (2018); and *ILYNL (It's Like You Never Left)*, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, GA (2018 screening). Recent group exhibitions include *The Inconstant World*, Institute of Contemporary Art, LA (2021); *STUDIO BERLIN*, Berghain, Panorama Bar, Säule and Halle, Berlin (2021); *Magical Soup*, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2020); *Witch Hunt*, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen (2020); *Beyond the Black Atlantic*, Kunstverein Hannover (2020); *Subjektiv*, Kunstneres Hus, Oslo (2017); and *Subjektiv*, Kunstneres Hus, Oslo (2017). Forthcoming exhibitions include *Soft Water Hard Stone*, The New Museum Triennial, New York (2021).

Planning Your Visit and Safety Precautions

Swiss Institute will allow a limited number of visitors at a time. Visitors are required to wear masks at all times and to keep six feet of distance to other visitors. Swiss Institute will have hand sanitizer stations available for visitor use. Entry is free as always. Swiss Institute's hours are Wed/Thurs/Fri 2- 8pm, Sat 12-8pm, Sun 12-6pm. Please check our website for the most up to date information: <https://www.swissinstitute.net/visit/>.

About Swiss Institute

Founded in 1986, SI is an independent non-profit contemporary art institution dedicated to promoting forward-thinking and experimental art making through innovative exhibitions and programs. Committed to the highest standards of curatorial and educational excellence, SI serves as a platform for emerging artists, catalyzes new contexts for celebrated work, and fosters appreciation for under-recognized positions. Open to the public free-of-charge, SI seeks to explore how a national perspective can foster international conversations in the fields of visual and performing arts, design and architecture.

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