

BETH O'DONNELL

TAINTED GOLD

By MAGO

ASSISTED BY JORDYN AXELROD & RAY COLON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARSIN MOGIELSKI

Inspired by art and culture, I have been honored to work with East Hampton-based artist Beth O'Donnell. Through curating her modern barn studio and documenting her latest project, I learned more about the mixed media artist, African wildlife, and the livelihoods of people across the world.

O'Donnell recently teamed up with the Lion Tusk Trail, a unique art installation that strives to raise awareness of the plight of the lion, and raise funds to support lives impacted by Covid-19 across Africa. On August 10, World Lions Day, life-size lion sculptures designed by foremost artists will roam the streets — all the way from London to the Hamptons to Kenya. O'Donnell said, "This project brings my life's work to a pinnacle, combining my multi-disciplinary process to create an expression of my lifelong journey as an environmental humanitarian artist."

Donna Karan, the creator of the eponymous DKNY clothing labels and owner of Sag Harbor's Urban Zen, is extremely passionate about wildlife, wellness, and social impact. Karan recruited O'Donnell and other renowned artists to design lion sculptures for the organization.

Goldilocks — completely composed of currency — is O'Donnell's 110-pound fiberglass lion, layered with 400 paper bills. The artist carefully assorted 40 bills each from the ten most egregious, trophy-hunting countries in the world. The money, tainted gold, represents the abuse that has left us with only fewer than 20,000 lions in existence. O'Donnell powerfully alludes to this, with a blood wound on her lion's side.



Goldilocks



Goldilocks
Beth O'Donnell and Donna Karan

After having spent much time in Africa and on guided safaris, O'Donnell was a perfect pick for the Lion Tusk Trail. In 2000, O'Donnell spent months working in the slums of Nairobi and Kenya, fostering her photo-journalism and art. Her photographs and mixed-media pieces were published in the *London Daily Telegraph* and *Marie Claire*.

On August 10, there will be a cocktail party to celebrate the lions at Duck Walk Vineyard in Water Mill, and on August 27, the lions will be auctioned off by Christie's Auction House at Wölffer Estate Vineyard in Sagaponack. Make sure to stop by, enjoy a glass of summer wine and beautiful art, all while doing good for the world.

Beth O'Donnell, bethodonnell.com

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Goldilocks, MAGO, Beth O'Donnell and Donna Karan