

WILLIAM KENTRIDGE

William Kentridge (born Johannesburg, South Africa, 1955) is internationally acclaimed for his drawings, films, theatre and opera productions.

His method combines drawing, writing, film, performance, music, theatre, and collaborative practices to create works of art that are grounded in politics, science, literature and history, whilst yet maintaining a space for contradiction and uncertainty.

His aesthetics are drawn from the medium of film's own history, from stop-motion animation to early special effects. Kentridge's drawing, specifically the dynamism of an erased and redrawn mark, is an integral part of his expanded animation and filmmaking practice, where the meanings of his films are developed during the process of their making.

William Kentridge's works first hit the international spotlight in 1997, when he took part in Documenta X in Kassel. His work has been seen in museums and galleries around the world since that time, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Albertina Museum in Vienna, Musée du Louvre in Paris, Whitechapel Gallery in London, Louisiana Museum in Copenhagen, the Reina Sofia museum in Madrid and the Kunstmuseum in Basel. 2009 marked the beginning of *5 Themes*, a major exhibition that opened at SFMoMA in San Francisco and then went on to MoMA in New York, the Jeu de Paume in Paris, and the Albertina in Vienna, among others.

Opera productions include Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Shostakovich's *The Nose*, and Alban Berg's operas *Lulu* and *Wozzeck*, and have been seen at opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera in New York, La Scala in Milan, Teatro San Carlo in Naples, English National Opera in London, Opera de Lyon, Amsterdam opera, and the Salzburg Festival.

The Head & the Load, with music by composer Philip Miller and Thuthuka Sibisi and choreography by Gregory Maqoma, interweaves music, dance, projection, shadow-play and sculpture. It premiered at the Tate Turbine Hall in July 2018 and went on to the Park Avenue Amory in New York and the Holland Festival in Amsterdam.

Solo exhibitions of his work have followed on one after the other in museums and galleries around the world. Among the Italian projects, can be remembered: the theatrical work and video *Zeno Writing* in 2002, from a reinterpretation of Italo Svevo's novel *Confessions of Zeno* (1923); the retrospective at Castello di Rivoli curated by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, in 2004; the (REPEAT) *From the Beginning / Da Capo* project presented at Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa and at the Teatro la Fenice in Venice and curated by Francesca Pasini, in 2008; *Streets of the city e altri arazzi*, solo show Museo di Capodimonte in 2009; the large mosaics and the sculpture *Il Cavaliere di Toledo*, permanent installations at the metro station in Naples; the solo exhibition *Vertical Thinking* at MAXXI in Rome in 2013; in 2014, *Paper Music: a Cinè Concert*, with music by Philip Miller, presented at Museo Bargello in Florence; finally, the monumental and ephemeral work *Triumph and Laments*, presented in 2016 on the Lungotevere in Rome.

Kentridge is also the recipient of honorary doctorates from several universities including Yale and the University of London. In 2010, he received the prominent Kyoto Prize for Arts and Philosophy. In 2012 he presented the Charles Eliot Norton Lectures at Harvard University and, later in June, he showed his massive *The Refusal of Time* installation at DOCUMENTA (13) in Kassel, before going to MAXXI in Rome, as mentioned above. In 2015 he was appointed an Honorary Academician of the Royal Academy in London. In 2017, he received the Princesa de Asturias Award for the arts, and in 2018, the Antonio Feltrinelli International Prize. In 2019 he received the Praemium Imperiale award in painting in Tokyo.

The most recent solo shows: *William Kentridge: Why Should I Hesitate? Putting Drawings to Work / Sculpture* at Zeitz MOCAA and at the Norval Foundation in Cape Town and: *A Poem that Is Not Our Own* that opened at the KunstMuseum in Basel in 2019 and is currently up at the Musée Metropole d'art moderne in Lille.

William Kentridge's large retrospective at the Royal Academy in London is scheduled in 2021/2022.

