

Two great events in two prestigious museums, with one protagonist

William Kentridge

Saturday November 14th, 2009

**Museum of Capodimonte
MADRE, Donna Regina Museum of Contemporary Art**

**Museum of Capodimonte,
"Streets of the city (and other tapestries)"**

On **14 November at 12.00 pm**, the exhibition "*Streets of the city (and other tapestries)*" will be opened. In the large reception room that contains the famous *d'Avalos* tapestries, William Kentridge will place eleven newly made monumental tapestries, sketches and drawings on original documents and maps of the Kingdom of Naples and small sculptures in bronze, all designed especially for the exhibition.

The works are linked to the series of the **Horse** and **Nose tapestries**, the ideal continuation of the **Porter Series**, a group of smaller works which present a procession of shadows projected onto maps, made by the artist beginning in 2001.

"While the first series," says the artist, "depicted 'porters', this one is equestrian. They are antiheroic equestrian figures, in a hopeless crusade through history, riders and horses in a search of a promised land, rather than *the Promised Land*".

In the *Nose tapestries* explicit reference is made to Gogol's short story *The Nose*, written in 1836. *Tristram Shandy* by Sterne (1759) and *Don Quixote* by Cervantes (1601) are the literary precedents for this tale which uses the absurd as a narrative expedient.

In Gogol's story, the nose abandons its owner and rises to greater authority and prestige, trying to become an equestrian hero. The story describes the attempts by the state councillor Kovalèv to trace and regain possession of his organ and the parallel solitary adventures of the nose along the streets of St Petersburg.

Besides the "biblical map" of Egypt and Palestine, ten or so engravings depicting the city of Naples and the surrounding region represent the "background landscape" of the adventures of the "Nose" in the guise of an equestrian hero. This confirms the strong link of the artist – already director and set designer of the "Magic Flute" at the San Carlo Theatre in October 2006 – with the city of Naples which has, over the centuries, been the land of conquest and injustice but also a picturesque and disturbing muse for the arts and culture.

Museum of Capodimonte

Via Miano, 2 – 80131 Naples

Tel. +39.081.7499111 - Fax +39.081.7445032

14 November 2009 - 20 January 2010

Opening times: 8.30 am - 7.30 pm; closed Wednesdays

Admission: museum and exhibition € 7.50



Soprintendenza Speciale per
il Patrimonio Storico
Artistico Etnoantropologico
e per il Polo Museale
della città di Napoli



METROPOLITANA DI NAPOLI SpA



Electa



MADRE, Donna Regina Museum of Contemporary Art
"I am not me, the horse is not mine "

Lecture/Performance with projection

On the same day, at **8.00 pm**, at the Madre Museum in Naples, the artist will give a talk in the form of a performance accompanied by a video projection entitled "*I am not me, the horse is not mine*". The title of the work derives from a Russian peasant expression used to deny guilt and used by Bukharin, Lenin's faithful deputy, in a meeting of the Central Committee in 1937 in an attempt to escape the Stalinist purge and finally death.

From the stage of the Madre museum, Kentridge will read several fragments taken from the transcription of this summary trial, and extracts taken from the previously mentioned story by Gogol. Kentridge presented this work for the first time in 2008 at the Sydney Biennial, together with the installation of 8 video fragments with the same name.

In 1930 *The Nose* was made into an opera by Dimitri Šostakovič in the chilling atmosphere of Stalinist repression. In March 2010 Kentridge will direct and design the sets of the opera for the "Metropolitan Opera- Lincoln Centre" in New York.

MADRE Donna Regina Museum of Contemporary Art

Via Settembrini, 79 - 80139 Naples

Tel. +39.081.193.13.016

Booking required for the performance

Tel. +39.081.19978024

e-mail: pellegrini@museomadre.it

Since 1997, the year of his participation at Documenta X at Kassel, many solo exhibitions of the work of **William Kentridge (Johannesburg, 1955)** have been held in museums and galleries throughout the world, beginning with the MCA in San Diego (1998) and the Museum of Modern Art in New York (1999). In 1998 the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels presented an anthological exhibition of his works which moved to other European museums between 1998 and 1999. A new retrospective of his works, curated by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, was held in the rooms of the Castello di Rivoli in 2004 and then in many other museums in Europe, Canada, and South Africa. 2009 marked the start of large new travelling exhibition which began in San Francisco and then moved to various museums in Texas, Florida, MoMA in New York, before being transferred to Europe.

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