

PRESS RELEASE

July 2018

WILLIAM KENTRIDGE: THICK TIME

21 September 2018 – 3 March 2019

Press preview 12.00-2.00pm 20 September 2018

Thick Time is a major touring exhibition of the work of South African artist William Kentridge. It brings together five moving image works including two of the artist's immersive audio-visual installations, *The Refusal of Time* (2012), which explores the technology of time-keeping and string theory, created in dialogue with physicist Peter Galison, and *O Sentimental Machine* (2015).

The exhibition has been expanded at the Whitworth with the inclusion of 2 additional new and recent large-scale tapestries and a selection of Kentridge's studio drawings, presented within an environment designed by Kentridge's long-term collaborator Sabine Theunissen.

Known for his expressionist drawing and films and more recently for his large-scale musical dramas and opera design, the works emerge from Kentridge's experience of apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa. Weaving together global histories of revolution, exile and utopian aspirations, Kentridge explores how such ideas are shaped by the creative forces of memory and the imagination.

Combining drawing, tapestry, music and film projection as well as sculpture, this major touring exhibition draws on sources as broad as early cinema, China's Cultural Revolution, opera, scientific theories of time and space and the generative qualities of nature and creativity.

The exhibition is accompanied by three limited-edition silkscreen prints by Kentridge, available for sale from the Whitworth shop and an illustrated exhibition catalogue with new writing by Iwona Blazwick, Homi Bhabha, Sabine Breitweisser, Michael Juul Holm and Denise Wendel-Poray.

William Kentridge will be participating in a free public talk at the Whitworth on the evening of the exhibition preview, 20 September.

Thick Time is co-organised by Whitechapel Gallery, London, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Museum der Moderne Salzburg and the Whitworth, The University of Manchester.

William Kentridge: Thick Time at the Whitworth is supported by a Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Research Grant from Art Fund.

Notes to editors

William Kentridge was born in 1955 in Johannesburg, South Africa where he continues to live and work. After studying politics and African history at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, Kentridge studied Fine Art at the Johannesburg Art Foundation and the École Jacques Lecoq in Paris. His early interest and training in theater — specifically in acting and design — underpins his artistic practice that ranges from drawing and sculpture, to performance and stage design. Kentridge's work has been exhibited in galleries around the world, including Museum of Modern Art, New York (1998, 2010); Musée du Louvre in Paris (2010) and Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin (2016), as well as major festivals such as Documenta, Kassel (1997, 2003, 2012); Venice Biennale (1993, 1999, 2003, 2015) and Istanbul Biennale (2015). In 2016 he founded The Centre for the Less Good Idea, an experimental interdisciplinary art centre in Maboneng, Johannesburg. Thick Time is co-organised by Whitechapel Gallery, London, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Museum der Moderne Salzburg and the Whitworth, The University of Manchester.

About the Whitworth

The Whitworth is part of The University of Manchester. It is home to internationally renowned collections of modern art, textiles, watercolours, prints, drawings and sculpture. Created in 1889 as the first English gallery in a park, the Whitworth has developed a new vision for the role of a university gallery. A creative laboratory within an ambitious university, the Whitworth is a place where good, unusual things happen. The Whitworth re-opened to the public on 14 February 2015 after a major £17 million redevelopment by architects MUMA. The Whitworth has welcomed over one million visitors since re-opening, and more than doubled its previous annual records. The redevelopment has doubled public space and created state-of-the-art new facilities including expanded gallery spaces, a study centre, learning studio, and a collections centre. The gallery was crowned Art Fund Museum of Year 2015, nominated for the prestigious Stirling Prize and named Best Emerging Cultural Destination in Europe. www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

About Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. In the past five years alone Art Fund has given £34 million to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections. It also helps museums share their collections with wider audiences by supporting a range of tours and exhibitions, and makes additional grants to support the training and professional development of curators. Art Fund is independently funded, with the core of its income provided by 139,000 members who receive the National Art Pass and enjoy free entry to over 320 museums, galleries

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and historic places across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibitions and subscription to Art Quarterly magazine. In addition to grant-giving, Art Fund's support for museums includes Art Fund Museum of the Year (won by Tate St Ives in 2018) and a range of digital platforms. Find out more about Art Fund and the National Art Pass at www.artfund.org

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