

The logo for Whitechapel Gallery, consisting of a blue square with the text "Whitechapel Gallery" in white, positioned above a solid blue horizontal bar.

Whitechapel
Gallery

William Kentridge

Thick Time

21 September - 15 January 2017

Large print labels and interpretation

Gallery 1

Left of gallery door:

William Kentridge

Thick Time

William Kentridge (b.1955) lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa. This exhibition takes a journey through a series of environments he created between 2003 and 2016. His work spans drawing and printmaking, film, performance, dance, music, tapestry and sculpture.

Kentridge's expressionist drawings stand in a tradition of radical figuration from Francisco de Goya in the 19th century to Max Beckmann, George Grosz or Käthe Kollwitz in the early 20th century. His great skill as a draughtsman combines with his interest in early cinema and in theatre.

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The experience of studying radical mime and acting techniques at L'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris and being part of an experimental theatre group in Johannesburg in the late 1970s and 1980s has been a major influence. Kentridge often collaborates with composers, dancers, musicians, puppeteers and designers; and has directed a number of operas.

Six immersive installations are located over two floors of the museum. The themes in Kentridge's work emerge from his experience of apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa and his reflections on colonialism and exile. The works also show his fascination with the utopian aspirations of early Modernism; the science and politics of time and space; the beauty and fragility of the natural world; and the nature of creativity.

Right side of gallery door:

<p>Untitled (Bicycle Wheel II)</p> <p>2012</p> <p>Steel, timber, brass, aluminium, bicycle parts and found objects</p> <p>Courtesy William Kentridge; Marian Goodman Gallery (New York/Paris/London); Goodman Gallery (Johannesburg and Cape Town); Lia Rumma Gallery (Naples and Milan)</p>	<p>n/a</p>
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Left of gallery, clockwise:

WILLIAM KENTRIDGE: THICK TIME

This gallery presents three installations. *Refusal of Time* (2012) emerged from a dialogue with science historian Peter Galison on how the measurement of time, space and light have evolved in tandem with the control and exploitation of global resources and peoples. These reflections are dramatised through five projections of dance, mime and shadow play, accompanied by composer Philip Miller's pulsating soundtrack and the exhalations of an elephantine set of bellows.

Second-hand Reading (2013) is a flipbook film featuring animated drawings superimposed on pages from dictionaries and encyclopedias. Drawings of the artist, scenes from nature, geometric shapes and manifesto-like slogans dance to Neo Muyanga's music across the sober backdrops of definitions, asserting the intuitive and the imaginary over the rational.

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William Kentridge is a bibliophile, a maker of books and the subject of many publications, presented in 'Tapestry Library'. His hand woven tapestries revive what one of the earliest forms of civic and domestic decoration; the artist's choice of an equestrian theme also relates to history – statues of horses are a common feature of European cities. Here they pose, rear up or gallop across aerial maps, symbols of bureaucratic pomp and militarism and of public protest.



The Refusal of Time

2012

Five-channel video projection, colour, sound

4 megaphones, breathing machine

30 min.

Made in collaboration with Philip Miller,
Catherine Meyburgh, Dada Masilo and Peter Galison

Music and
Soundscape

Philip Miller
(continues on next page)

Video Catherine Meyburgh

Choreography Dada Masilo

Dramaturge

Breathing machine Jonas Lundquist

Sabine Theunissen

Video installation Yoav Dagan

Sound design Gavan Eckhart

Movement direction Luc de Wit

Costume design Greta Goiris

Design Sabine Theunissen

Lighting design Urs Schonebaum

Megaphones Christoff Wolmarans

Louis Olivier

Chris-Waldo de Wet

Singing and vocals Ann Masina

Bham Ntabeni

Joanna Dudley

Thato Motlhaolwa

Mandie de Villiers-Schutte

Siyavuya Makuzeni

Flugel horn, Trumpet Adam Howard

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Trombone, Euphonium	Dan Selsick
Tuba	Thobeka Thukane
Violin	Waldo Alexander
Percussion	Tlale Makhene

Robert Ndimma and
the Ntuba Brothers Choir

Dancer	Dada Masilo
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Actors	William Kentridge
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Thato Motlhaolwa

Abdul Razaq Awofeso

Luc de Wit

Louis Olivier

Shareen Mathebula

Commissioned by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev for
DOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Germany, 2012

Produced by Marian Goodman Gallery (New York and Paris);
Lia Rumma Gallery (Naples and Milan); Goodman Gallery
(Johannesburg and Cape Town);

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark.

Acquired with funding by the New Carlsberg Foundation

<p>Head (Model Opera)</p> <p>2015</p> <p>Steel</p> <p>Courtesy William Kentridge; Marian Goodman Gallery (New York/Paris/London)</p>	n/a
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Opposite wall, tapestry:

<p>Pianta della citta di Napoli</p> <p>2009</p> <p>Tapestry</p> <p>Woven by the Stephens</p> <p>Tapestry Studio, Diepsloot, Johannesburg, South Africa</p> <p>Courtesy William Kentridge; Marian Goodman Gallery (New York/Paris/London); Goodman Gallery</p>	n/a
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Back of gallery:

Streets of the City

2009

Tapestry

Woven by the Stephens

Tapestry Studio,

Diepsloot, Johannesburg,

South Africa

Courtesy William Kentridge;

Marian Goodman Gallery

(New York/Paris/London);

Goodman Gallery

(Johannesburg and Cape

Town); Lia Rumma Gallery

(Naples and Milan)



From back of gallery, clockwise:

The Nose (with Strawberries)

2012

Tapestry

Woven by the Stephens

Tapestry Studio,

Diepsloot, Johannesburg,

South Africa

Courtesy William Kentridge;

Marian Goodman Gallery

(New York/Paris/London);

Goodman Gallery

(Johannesburg and Cape

Town); Lia Rumma Gallery

(Naples and Milan)





Second-hand Reading

2013

Flipbook film from drawings on single pages of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, HD video

7.01 min.

Music and Voice: Neo Muyanga

Editor: Snežana Marović

Courtesy William Kentridge; Marian Goodman Gallery (New York/Paris/London); Goodman Gallery (Johannesburg/Cape Town); Lia Rumma Gallery (Naples/Milan)

ACCESS INFORMATION

For details on parking, assistance dogs, adapted toilets, lifts, large print transcripts and free audio described tours or any other access facilities:

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access@whitechapelgallery.org

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