

TWO OF SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADING ART INSTITUTIONS TO HOST LARGEST WILLIAM KENTRIDGE EXHIBITION IN AFRICA

Cape Town, 6 May 2019: The largest exhibition to be held in Africa in over a decade by internationally acclaimed artist William Kentridge is set to open in Cape Town in August. The major exhibition of his work will be hosted simultaneously in two parts by the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA) and Norval Foundation, opening 24 August and running through to March 2020.

Local art enthusiasts and international visitors to Cape Town – a fast-growing cultural capital – will gain access to many different works, executed over decades, by William Kentridge in two of the city's leading art institutions at the same time, with the artist's *Why Should I Hesitate: Putting Drawings To Work* on display at Zeitz MOCAA and *Why Should I Hesitate? Sculpture* on view at Norval Foundation.

Why Should I Hesitate: Putting Drawings To Work, will be staged at Zeitz MOCAA and will offer a wide survey of Kentridge's work, including early works, as well as newer pieces on view for the first time in South Africa. It will cover over 40 years of artistic production (1976 - 2019) in drawing, stop-frame animation, video, prints, sculpture, tapestry, and large-scale installation. The title references Kentridge's primary practice of drawing, and how this core activity informs and enables his studio practice. It also references the impact of individual action on history and the reverse – how history shapes the contemporary and the future – and works as a commentary on various shifting hegemonies of power politics, economies, language and the authority to narrate history.

"This large scale survey exhibition prompts us to consider how various artistic media, initiated from two-dimensional works on paper, can be seeds through which Kentridge has developed his concerns for history, particularly in relation to his home continent, Africa, and its historical ties further afield. By mapping these histories we consider the artist's relationship to the world and ideas of self-actualisation, and the illusions of power and progress through a violent history. Kentridge's work, while ambiguous, does not hide from its inherent traumatic history. It is an honour for me to work with one of the living masters of our time," says Azu Nwagbogu, curator of the exhibition at Zeitz MOCAA.

"As I begin my tenure, it is an intense joy to host an unprecedented survey show of one of the great masters of contemporary visual political poetry," says Koyo Kouoh, Executive Director and Chief Curator at Zeitz MOCAA.

Why Should I Hesitate? Sculpture, will be on view at Norval Foundation, and will present three-dimensional work of William Kentridge from the past 19 years. This will be the first exhibition internationally to address Kentridge's output as a sculptor. Covering several bodies of work, and testifying to his longstanding and spontaneous improvisation when handling three-dimensional form, *Why Should I Hesitate? Sculpture* sees the origins of these works in props from his operas and images from his animations stepping off the stage and out of the screen, confronting us directly at ground level. *Why Should I Hesitate? Sculpture* will also premiere new works commissioned for the occasion of this special exhibition.

“Norval Foundation is presenting, for the first time, an exhibition focused solely on William Kentridge’s sculptural practice, working in conjunction with the artist and his studio. Kentridge’s sculptures embrace a spontaneous approach and have recently evolved towards the massive, and the monumental. Simultaneously, and in tension to the monumental aspects of his practice, he is revealed to be a choreographer as much as a sculptor,” says Karel Nel, Senior Advising Curator at Norval Foundation.

“Norval Foundation is proud to be hosting *Why Should I Hesitate? Sculpture*. A key aspect of the Foundation is our commitment to exhibiting the sculptural and installation based practices of a variety of artists, which is facilitated by our purpose-designed building. In particular, we invite artists and curators to respond to gallery eight, our largest gallery, with William Kentridge’s exhibition exemplifying this. The gallery has reinforced floors to support works that weigh as much as eight tons, and reach as high as nine metres. The monumental size of this gallery sits in an ideal contrast to the anti-monumental, spontaneous and theatrical sculptures that form part of this exhibition,” says Elana Brundyn, CEO, Norval Foundation.

Both exhibitions will include major works from Kentridge’s extensive oeuvre, and will be accompanied by two new publications, conceived in collaboration between Zeitz MOCAA, Norval Foundation and the artist. The exhibitions will be accompanied by a series of talks and performances with the artist, and leading voices in the cultural sector.

OPENING EVENTS

A series of member events and public programmes will be held across both venues over the opening weekend, Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 August 2019.

Exhibition title: *Why Should I Hesitate: Putting Drawings To Work*
Venue: Level 3 Galleries and throughout, Zeitz MOCAA; Silo District, V&A Waterfront
Run dates: 25 August 2019 – 23 March 2020
Exhibition curators: Azu Nwagbogu, assisted by Tammy Langtry

Exhibition title: *Why Should I Hesitate? Sculpture*
Venue: Atrium and Galleries 2-8, Norval Foundation, 4 Steenberg Road, Tokai
Run dates: 24 August 2019 – 23 March 2020
Exhibition curators: Karel Nel, Owen Martin, Talia Naicker, Vicky Lekone

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

About William Kentridge

William Kentridge is internationally acclaimed for his drawings, films, theatre and opera productions.

His practice is born out of a cross-fertilisation between mediums and genres, and responds to the legacies of colonialism and apartheid. 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.

Kentridge's work has been seen in museums and galleries around the world since the 1990s, including Documenta in Kassel, 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 and the Reina Sofia museum in Madrid.

Opera productions include Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Shostakovich's *The Nose*, and Alban Berg's *Lulu*, and have been seen at opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera in New York, La Scala in Milan, English National Opera in London, Opera de Lyon, Amsterdam opera, and others. Summer 2017 saw the premiere of Kentridge's production of Berg's *Wozzeck* for the Salzburg Festival. *The Head & the Load*, sometimes described as a processional opera (with original music by composers Philip Miller and Thuthuka Sibisi), opened to critical acclaim in London and New York in 2018.

Kentridge is the recipient of honorary doctorates from several universities including Yale and the University of London, and in 2012 he presented the Charles Eliot Norton Lectures at Harvard University. In 2010, he received the Kyoto Prize. 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.

About Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA)

Zeitz MOCAA is a public not-for-profit contemporary art museum that collects, preserves, researches and exhibits 21st-century art from Africa and its diaspora; hosts international exhibitions; develops supporting educational and enrichment programmes; encourages intercultural understanding; and guarantees access for all.

Galleries are dedicated to a large cutting-edge collection; special exhibitions; and Centres for Art Education, Curatorial Training, Performative Practice, Photography and the Moving Image.

Zeitz MOCAA was established through a partnership between the V&A Waterfront led by CEO David Green—acting on behalf of Growthpoint Properties Limited and the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF), represented by the Public Investment Corporation Limited (PIC)—and collector Jochen Zeitz. The building was reimagined through a design by the acclaimed London-based Heatherwick Studio.

About Norval Foundation

Norval Foundation is a centre for art and cultural expression, dedicated to the research and exhibition of 20th and 21st century visual art from South Africa and beyond. Located in the Steenberg area of Cape Town, adjacent to Table Mountain National Park, Norval Foundation combines the experience of art with an appreciation for nature.

The Sculpture Garden, outdoor amphitheatre, purpose-built exhibition spaces and research library are situated in a unique setting that offers visitors a multisensory experience. This is complemented by The Skotnes Restaurant and Bar, a bespoke shop and a children's playground. Norval Foundation aims to create high-quality exhibitions and public programming to broaden our understanding of the visual arts.

Norval Foundation is honoured to be the custodian of the Gerard Sekoto Foundation, the Edoardo Villa Estate Collection and the Alexis Preller Archive. Norval Foundation supports the belief that art has the power to enrich our lives and that artists contribute to our communities in a profound way. The Norval family are the founders and initial funders of Norval Foundation and their aim is to make art widely accessible to local and international visitors by creating a self-sustaining centre for art. The proceeds from capital donations will be used to secure the Foundation for future generations.