

— For Immediate Release

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Public Art Fund presents

William Kentridge 9 Drawings for Projection

An outdoor performance and screening with live music



Music composed by Philip Miller
Performed by Jill Richards, Sontonga Quartet,
Adam Howard, and Tumelo Moloi
Co-produced by Public Art Fund and Ross Douglas

Prospect Park Bandshell
June 23, 2005 at 7:30
In collaboration with
Celebrate Brooklyn! Performing Arts Festival

Central Park Bandshell
June 27, 2005 at 9pm

Public Art Fund is pleased to announce the presentation of 9 Drawings for Projection, an outdoor performance and film screening that brings together all of the short animated films from internationally renowned South African artist William Kentridge's "Soho Eckstein" series. Presented chronologically and shown in 35mm for the first time ever in the U.S., the films will be introduced by the artist and accompanied by a live performance of composer Philip Miller's original soundtrack. Offering a rare chance to see all of the works in this lyrically compelling, politically evocative series, the performance of William Kentridge's 9 Drawings for Projection will take place in Prospect Park Bandshell on June 23 and in Central Park on June 27. Both events are sponsored by Bloomberg.

The premiere performance takes place on Wednesday, June 23 at the Prospect Park Bandshell in Brooklyn as part of Celebrate Brooklyn! Performing Arts Festival. On that night only, 9 Drawings for Projection will follow a concert by world musician and jazz trumpeter Hugh Masekela, making this a once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience the work of these two South African luminaries in back-to-back performances. On Monday, June 27, the second performance of 9 Drawings for Projection will take place in Central Park, at the historic Naumburg Bandshell located on the Mall near 72nd Street.

Made between 1989 and 2003, the Soho Eckstein series follows the fictional story of Kentridge's iconic antihero, a wealthy South African mine owner, land developer, and cuckold. The nine films chronicle the rise of Soho's Johannesburg empire, his wife's passionate and water-soaked affair with Felix Teitlebaum, loss, love, injury, and very much more, all set against the backdrop of South Africa's shifting political and social realities. "I have never tried to make illustrations of apartheid,"

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Kentridge has said. "But my drawings and films are certainly spawned by and feed off the brutalized society left in its wake. I am interested in a political art...an art of ambiguity, contradiction, uncompleted gestures and uncertain endings. An art—and a politics—in which optimism is kept in check and nihilism at bay."

Music and sound effects play a key role in the emotional narrative of Kentridge's animations, which he has previously shown separately or in groups as gallery video projections. Since 1994, he has worked with composer Philip Miller; their first collaboration was on *Felix in Exile*, and Miller has since composed original soundtracks for the subsequent works in the Soho Eckstein series and for several other projects. For *9 Drawings for Projection*, Miller rescored much of the films' original soundtracks to translate the spirit of the recorded music into live performance. The performers for *9 Drawings for Projection* are pianist Jill Richards; the Sontonga Quartet, a string quartet; trumpeter Adam Howard; and singer Tumelo Moloi. Producer Ross Douglas initiated this project, which debuted in Johannesburg in 2004.

In making his films, Kentridge creates an entire animation sequence from a single drawing, which he augments bit by bit, working without script or storyboard. His narratives and imagery—at once melancholy, graceful, and open-ended—emerge through this unusual, labor-intensive working process. He adds one mark, erases another, walks over to a camera a few feet away and shoots a couple of frames. Making the short trip back from camera to drawing, he says, he "hopes that some idea will emerge to suggest what the next drawing or the next sequence should be." He then repeats the process over and over, so that each narrative instant bears the eloquent traces of all that has come before. In the end, he is left with one short film and a very small stack of drawings, one for each scene in the film.

The program of *9 Drawings for Projection* includes *Johannesburg, 2nd Greatest City After Paris* (1989), *Monument* (1990), *Mine* (1991), *Sobriety, Obesity and Growing Old* (1991), *Felix in Exile* (1994), *History of the Main Complaint* (1996), *Weighing...and Wanting* (1997), *Stereoscope* (1999), and *Tide Table* (2003). The program also features one film that is not part of the Soho series, *Journey to the Moon* (2003), the only one of Kentridge's films in which he appears himself.

This event is made possible by Bloomberg.

Prospect Park on Wednesday, June 23: Hugh Masekela performs at 7:30pm; *9 Drawings for Projection* follows at 9pm. Free (suggested donation of \$3). The entrance to the Prospect Park Bandshell is located at Prospect Park West and 9th Street in Park Slope, Brooklyn. The closest subway stop is the F at 7th Avenue. (Exit at the front of the Brooklyn-bound train at Eighth Avenue and 9th St., walk one block along 9th St. to park entrance.) Other nearby stops include 2, 3 at Grand Army Plaza; B, Q at Seventh Avenue.

Central Park on Monday, June 27: This performance is free and will begin at 9pm. The Central Park Bandshell is located along The Mall, mid-park just south of the 72nd Street Transverse. Enter park from either East or West 72nd St. (Please note: This is not the Rumsey Playfield where SummerStage concerts take place, although it is just east of it.) The closest subway stops are B, C at 72nd St or 6 at 68th St – Hunter College.

ABOUT THE ARTIST, COMPOSER, AND MUSICIANS

WILLIAM KENTRIDGE was born in 1955 in Johannesburg, where he now lives and works. He attracted international attention when his work was seen in Documenta X and at the Johannesburg and Havana Biennials, all in 1997. His prints and drawings—and his drawing-based work in film, theater, and opera productions—present a unique, emblematic view of the state of South Africa today, from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings to traces of apartheid's violence in the landscape around Johannesburg. Blending formal technique with an emotionally complex understanding of socio-political history, the human condition, and individual narrative, Kentridge is recognized as one of the most important artists of our time.

PHILIP MILLER (composer) left his first career as a lawyer to study composition with Jeannie Zaidel-Rudolph in Johannesburg and then Joseph Horowitz in London. In 1995, he completed studies in electro-acoustic music at Bournemouth University. He has worked extensively with William Kentridge, composing the scores to many of his animation films, culminating in the release of the CD, "Music for the Films of William Kentridge." In 2004, he also arranged and produced an album of South African lullabies, "The Thula Project." He has composed soundtracks to many award-winning feature films and television productions including *Yizo Yizo*, *Forgiveness* and *Max and Mona*.

JILL RICHARDS (piano) studied at the Royal College of Music in London and in the US. She specializes in new music, and has performed in North America, Russia, the Far East, and Europe. She has had numerous works dedicated to her, and has given many premieres in South Africa and elsewhere. She has released several CDs, and has been broadcast widely, including by the BBC and NPR.

SONTONGA QUARTET (Marc Uys on violin, Walkdo Alexander on violin, Xandi van Dijk on viola, and Brian Choveaux on cello) is named in honor of Enoch Sontonga, the turn-of-the-century composer of the South African national anthem, "Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrica." Formed in 2002, this string quartet has performed throughout South Africa and has toured internationally with *Confessions of Zeno*, the multimedia collaboration with Handspring Puppet company, William Kentridge, and composer Kevin Volans.

ADAM HOWARD was born in Rochdale, Lancashire, U. K., and studied music at the Guildhall school of Music and Drama. He came to South Africa in 1997 after being appointed principal trumpet of the New Arts Philharmonic Orchestra of Pretoria based at the State Theatre. He plays both classical and jazz/pop music, and is a shareholder of Stone Music Productions, where he composes, arranges and engineers.

TUMELO MOLOI was born in Orlando East, Soweto in South Africa. She has performed with Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela, Ray Phiri, and Vusi Khumalo. In 2003 she was selected as lead vocalist of the Standard Bank National Youth Jazz Band.

ROSS DOUGLAS started as a producer of wildlife documentaries for national Geographic and other broadcasters. He now specializes in producing contemporary art events in public spaces. He initiated the project *9 Drawings for Projection*, and is now producing the South African season of Kentridge's recently completed opera, *The Magic Flute*.

HUGH MASEKELA, jazz trumpeter and world fusion pioneer, is widely known as the father of African jazz and as South Africa's musical ambassador to the world. He first came to international attention with his smash hit single "Grazing in the Grass" in the late 1960s.

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PUBLIC ART FUND is New York's leading presenter of artists' projects, new commissions, installations and exhibitions in public spaces. For over 25 years the Public Art Fund has been committed to working with emerging and established artists to produce innovative exhibitions of contemporary art throughout New York City. The Public Art Fund is a non-profit arts organization supported by generous gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations, and with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

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