

EXHIBITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Hilliard University Art Museum
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
710 East Saint Mary Blvd.
Lafayette, LA 70503

Laura Blereau, Curator
laura.blereau@louisiana.edu
(337) 482-0823



William Kentridge: Journey to the Moon

Exhibition Dates: Sep 8, 2017 – Jan 20, 2018
Reception: Fri, Sep 8, 6:00-8:00 PM

William Kentridge. *Journey to the Moon*, 2003. 35 mm and 16 mm film transferred to video (black and white, sound). 7 min, 10 sec. Edited by Catherine Meyburgh. Music by Phillip Miller. Piano by Jill Richards. Image courtesy the artist and Marian Goodman Gallery, New York.

The Hilliard University Art Museum's fall 2017 season features five exhibitions exploring production techniques and the creative process behind an artist's work in the studio. Presenting a wide range of mediums and approaches, it brings together voices from New Orleans, Acadiana, California and South Africa.

The current season also inaugurates a special exhibition series on the museum's second floor that is focused on historically significant film and video artists. Offering an opportunity to carefully study the medium, each work in this series is presented over the course of many months in a dedicated black box environment. This programming is internationally diverse, and features three artists in the coming year.

Based in Johannesburg, South Africa, William Kentridge (b. 1955) works across a variety of media and disciplines—from sculpture to the performing arts, printmaking, books and film. Among the greatest artists of our time, he is acclaimed for poetic animated films that are based on charcoal drawings. Since the late 1990s, his work has circulated widely and been recognized by solo exhibitions at major museums including the Whitechapel Gallery, London; Museum der Moderne, Salzburg; SFMOMA, San Francisco; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo; the Ullens Center, Beijing; Tate Modern, London; and others. His work was first introduced to Louisiana in 2008 in a display at the New Orleans African American Museum as part of the Prospect.1 city-wide triennial.

The short film *Journey to the Moon* (2003) offers an intimate look into Kentridge's production process, both physically and psychically. It explores the studio space as a site of performance. In the role of protagonist, Kentridge himself appears, probing questions of vision and creativity. Familiar objects such as espresso cups, saucers and a percolator appear in this quest, as Kentridge aims to escape the confines of his studio and find windows into another world—one that is both absurd and profound.

This work follows the magical story of *Le Voyage dans la Lune* (*Voyage to the Moon*), a 1902 masterpiece by French film director George Méliès. *Journey to the Moon* is also part of a larger body of work that includes *7 Fragments for Méliès*, in which Kentridge pays tribute to the early days of cinema, as well as modern and contemporary artists Bruce Nauman and Jackson Pollock. The works in this series are among his first to mix live action footage with the stop motion drawing technique for which he is best known.

"To make his short films Méliès painted his own backdrops in his studio, performed in front of them, and filmed his performances," said Kentridge in a 2009 statement about the project. "The films are the

combination of his paintings and his performance. He is simultaneously showman, presenter and actor, rather like Courbet in his painting *The Artist's Studio* (1855).” In Kentridge’s work, viewers see the artist pacing back and forth, as the studio becomes a stage for action, presence, erasure, thinking and non-thinking. Playfully self-aware, this series builds upon Kentridge’s brief studies of mime at the Ecole Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris during the early 1980s, as well as his early theatrical explorations with the Junction Avenue Theatre, Johannesburg, in the late 1970s.

Journey to the Moon originated in 35 mm and 16 mm film. It was edited by collaborator Catherine Meyburgh and features music by Phillip Miller with piano by Jill Richards.

Upon request, press and media kits are available that include high-resolution images and selected literature on the artist.

Museum Hours, Admission & General Information

The Hilliard University Art Museum is located at 710 East Saint Mary Boulevard, on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Museum Hours are: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Wednesday, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; closed Sunday and Monday. General Admission: \$5 Adults, \$4 Seniors (62+), \$3 Students (5-17). FREE for Members, UL Students/Staff/Faculty with identification, and visitors under 5. Guided tours of the galleries are available Friday & Saturday at 2 PM, complimentary with admission. For general information, please visit hilliardmuseum.org or call (337) 482-2278.

About the Hilliard Museum

The Hilliard University Art Museum operates on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and was originally founded in 1964 as the Art Center for Southwest Louisiana. Featuring a state-of-the-art modern facility that was erected in 2004, the museum houses more than 2,200 objects in its permanent collection, and is the largest art exhibition space between New Orleans and Houston. The Hilliard serves a wide range of educational and cultural needs by fostering cross-disciplinary intellectual discourse on campus and throughout the region. At the core of the Hilliard's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit the art of our time while celebrating the great diversity of Louisiana's heritage.

Concurrent and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Hilliard University Art Museum

May 23, 2017 – September 16, 2017. *CONTINGENT: drawing and sculpture by Joan Tanner*, guest curated by Julien Robson.

September 8, 2017 – May 5, 2018. *Tina Freeman: Artist Spaces*, organized by the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, guest curated by Bradley Sumrall.

September 8, 2017 – October 15, 2017. *Crafting the South Louisiana Sound*, curated by Anya Burgess and Chris Segura. Presented in partnership with Festivals Acadiens et Créoles and the Center for Louisiana Studies.

September 8, 2017 – January 20, 2018. *William Kentridge: Journey to the Moon*.

May 19, 2017 – December 9, 2017. *Spotlight on Francis Pavy*.

October 7, 2017 – January 27, 2018. *Lin Emery: A Movement, 1957-2017*.

February 17, 2018 – May 19, 2018. *Lynda Frese: Survey*.

###