

Rome, the Tiber livens up again with the street art

William Kentridge designs a great frieze, 550 metres long, just by cleaning the massive walls.



The rendering of the project by William Kentridge for the Tiber.

Street art in Rome, with William Kentridge. 2014 is the year of the Tiber, the river that, according to the legend, welcomed Romulus and Remus in swaddling clothes, considered a real god. The South African artist Kentridge is committed to liven up the so-called *Pater Tiberinus*, realizing *Triumphs and Laments*: an enormous frieze rich in historical and contemporary characters. The purpose? Giving back to the city an important place, left for too much time neglected. The works will be inaugurated after summer 2014.

A THREE-YEAR PROJECT. The project will be developed in three years and will occupy 550 metres of the massive walls of the Tiber, between the bridges Sisto and Mazzini. It plans the realization of more than ninety characters, up to nine metres high, that will be placed one after the other, telling the history of Rome, among triumphs and complains. In addition the project includes also other international artists, among architects, town planners and culture professionals.

COMPATIBLE WITH HISTORICAL HERITAGE PROTECTION. A particular note concerns the technique that the artist will use: no varnish or paint, but only the selective cleaning of smog and biological wrap, that formed on the massive walls over the years. A sure but not too long-lasting way, anyway able not to alter the



chemical characteristics of the travertine (the chalky sedimentary rock of chemical kind, very used in building in Rome, since the I millennium BC, ed.) and, therefore, perfectly compatible with the historical heritage protection. Technique, furthermore, created and used by Jones, when in 2005, on the Tiber (and in the same area), realized the *Summer Solstice*.

IT COSTS 350 THOUSAND EUROS. In order to realize the big work of *street art* are required 350 thousand euros, made available by Tevereterno (multidisciplinary art project for Tiber appreciation, ed.) and some galleries of contemporary art, bonded to the South African artist. For any information: [Tevereterno](#)