

# ANOTHER AFRICA

**56th Venice Biennale | An Uneven African Presence**

**Written by Clelia Coussonnet on May 18, 2015 in Art & Culture**



William Kentridge at Venice Biennale

...Also to be noted was the low number of African curators and artists invited in other venues, and the appropriation of African voices by other actors. On this account, only the Italian and Holy See Pavilions invited respectively, South African artist William Kentridge and Mozambican photographer Mário Macilau. An initiative such as the *'African Cities in Motion'* exhibition by Ca'Asi is to be congratulated as it investigates urban-related issues in the continent. Though with only one artist from the Moroccan diaspora, it lacked the nuances afforded from the insiders' view.

Across the board, while some interesting artworks were presented, I am left with mixed feelings. A stronger effort would have been necessary to gain momentum and go beyond the beaten track. The challenges faced by National Pavilions continue to elucidate the infrastructural weaknesses facing African nations in terms of cultural strategies. Strong, long-term programming and investment are essential to build the appropriate cultural mechanisms. And art is a way to position a country on the global scale, but it requires a synergy of both governmental actions and financial support with the art community.