

Watch Rome's Massive Art Mural Slowly Disappear, Starting Next Month

BY LOW LAI CHOW | MARCH 27, 2016



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A test stencil for Triumphs and Laments (Minerva), Ponte Regina Margherita, Rome.

(Kristin Jones)

Rome is slated to get a massive 550-meter long frieze by South African multi-disciplinary artist (<http://www.blouinartinfo.com/artists/william-kentridge-4112>) (/artists/william-kentridge-4112) (/artists/william-kentridge-4112) (/artists/william-kentridge-4112) (/artists/william-kentridge-4112) ([William Kentridge](#)) (/artists/william-kentridge-4112) along the Tiber River banks next month—and it is touted as the largest public contemporary art project that the Eternal City has seen to date.

Termed ***Triumphs and Laments: A Project for Rome***

(<http://www.triumphsandlaments.com/>), the ambitious mural will comprise eighty figures that depict Rome's rich storied history over the years—which means a long procession of silhouettes showing love and war, resilience and oppression, villains and heroes.

The frieze comes with a twist: even before Kentridge has commenced his mural, the demise of this art piece at the urban waterfront is already set.

Gigantic stencils based on Kentridge's original charcoal drawings will be made specifically for the installation. The artist will deploy a fascinating reverse graffiti technique to mark the travertine embankments in Piazza Tevere between Ponte Sisto and Ponte Mazzini. By placing these stencils on them and power-washing around the stencils on the stone walls, the natural grime that remains will ironically forms the strokes of Kentridge's larger-than-life figures that reach up to 10 meters high.

Triumphs and Laments: A Project for Rome is set to make its debut on April 21-22 during the Natale di Roma holiday, marking the Italian capital's birthday. South African composer

(<http://www.philipmiller.info/>) (/artists/philip-miller-123822) (/artists/philip-miller-123822)

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Miller (/artists/philip-miller-123822), a long-time collaborator of Kentridge, has been roped in to premiere a theatrical program on the occasion that will include with live shadow play and processional brass bands.

On Kickstarter, the artist has already reached his **\$80,000 target goal**

(<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/13678860/william-kentridge-creates-art-history-on-romes-tib/description>) with 420 backers to date who have chipped in to crowdfund the project. Rewards range from panoramic photographs of the frieze, to a week's stay at the late American artist

(<http://www.sollewittprints.org/biography>) (/artists/sol-lewitt-26) (/artists/sol-lewitt-1103667)

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(/artists/sol-lewitt-26) **Sol Lewitt** (/artists/sol-lewitt-1103667)'s private 17th-century Casa L' Orto private estate on the Amalfi Coast—complete with a private tour of Kentridge's mosaic murals made by

Neapolitan craftsmen at the **Toledo Metro Art Station**

(<http://www.napoliunplugged.com/location/toledo-metro-station>) in Naples.



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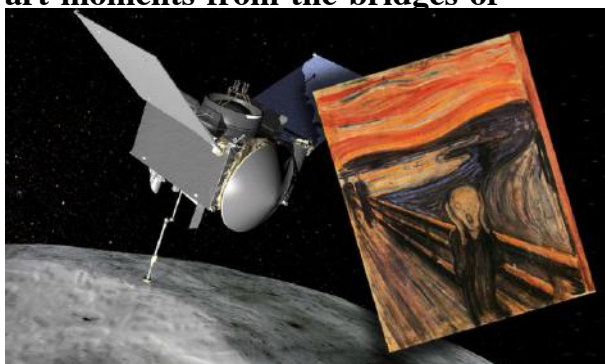
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