

road to justice

Memory, anger and reconciliation in the works of nine artists
presenting visions of the past, present and future in a rapidly evolving Africa

**John Akomfrah, Marlene Dumas, Kendell Geers,
Bouchra Khalili, Moshekwa Langa, Wangechi Mutu,
Malik Nejmi, Michael Tsegaye and Sue Williamson**

22 June – 14 October 2018

www.maxxi.art | [##RoadToJusticeExhibit](https://twitter.com/##RoadToJusticeExhibit)

*There is nothing like returning to a place that is unchanged
to find the ways in which you yourself have altered.*
(Nelson Mandela)

Rome 21 June 2018. Collective and individual memories, attempts at the reconstruction of personal identity, imaginary narrations filling voids in the official historiography, the works of **nine African artists** are the protagonists of **road to justice**, the exhibition curated by Anne Palopoli that from **22 June to 14 October 2018** will be recounting in a presentation that is by no means exhaustive the complexities of the African continent, its wounds, its violence and the possible future scenarios.

The exhibition is part of a broader project strongly supported by **Giovanna Melandri**, the President of the Fondazione MAXXI, dedicated to the vitality of the artistic scene on the African continent, constantly expanding amidst contradictions and open wounds, and is part of the museum's strand of research that sees art and culture as instruments of dialogue and cultural diplomacy. The project also features the exhibition *African Metropolis* (22 June – November 2018), curated by **Simon Njami** and **Elena Motisi**, which presents through the vision of 34 African artists the complexity of the contemporary metropolis and a rich programme of encounters with African artists, architects and writers, film and live dance and music.

In the history of the African continent, the deportation of entire populations and colonization have progressively destroyed existing cultures and altered political, religious and social equilibriums; indigenous peoples have been catapulted into a cultural and political reality fabricated elsewhere that has caused progressive and violent marginalization. Creating dialogues between works from the MAXXI permanent collection with others chosen for the occasion, **road to justice** offers further reflection on the issues of **post-colonialism**, memory and identity.

The exhibition presents **11 works**, including video, painting and photography by **John Akomfrah, Marlene Dumas, Kendell Geers, Bouchra Khalili, Moshekwa Langa, Wangechi Mutu, Malik Nejmi, Michael Tsegaye** and **Sue Williamson** arranged in three areas referring to the *past, present* and *future* of Africa.

In the section of the exhibition devoted to the **past** we find the works *Peripeteia* (2012) by **John Akomfrah** and *Black Jesus Man* (1994) by **Marlene Dumas** in which we find references to the representation of people "of colour" in western figurative art and which tackle the issues of slavery, capitalism and segregation. In the works *Foreign Office* (2015) by **Bouchra Khalili**, *T.W Batons, (Circle)* (1994) by **Kendell Geers** and in the maps reworked by **Moshekwa Langa** instead, a number of themes emerge that linked to the *present* like the apartheid, the movement of liberation, migration and the recovery from the traumas we are still witness to today. A selection of photographs by **Michael Tsegaye** and the video *4160* (2014) by **Malik Nejmi** instead offer intimate, introspective images that are nonetheless capable of denouncing states of social abandonment and cultural uprooting.

The projections regarding the **future** instead features artists opening to diverse reflections such as the apocalyptic vision of our planet presented in the video *The End of Eating Everything* (2013) by **Wangechi Mutu** or the hope manifested through the exaltation of forgiveness that Nelson Mandela felt should be the principal response to the crimes of apartheid in order to take up a direct path to justice.

For all these artists, the theme of **memory** is fundamental for both its destructive power and its extraordinary capacity for healing and reconciliation. Memory is used as an instrument that augments understanding, helps heal the wounds and restore dignity in an attempt to comprehend the past and direct the future within an intercultural context.

road to justice intends to promote the links between themes, ideas, people and events, proposing a reading of the complex African continent that is capable of collating diverse perspective, new interpretations and innovative connections, helping to expand our horizons.

The press kit and images of the exhibition can be downloaded from the Reserved Area of the Fondazione MAXXI's website at <http://www.maxxi.art/en/area-stampa/> by typing in the password **areariservatamaxxi**

MAXXI – National Museum of XXI Century Arts

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opening hours: 11.00 AM – 7.00 PM (Tues, Weds, Fri, Sat, Sun) | 11.00 AM - 10.00 PM (Thursday) | closed Mondays. Admittance free for students of art and architecture from Tuesday to Friday

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