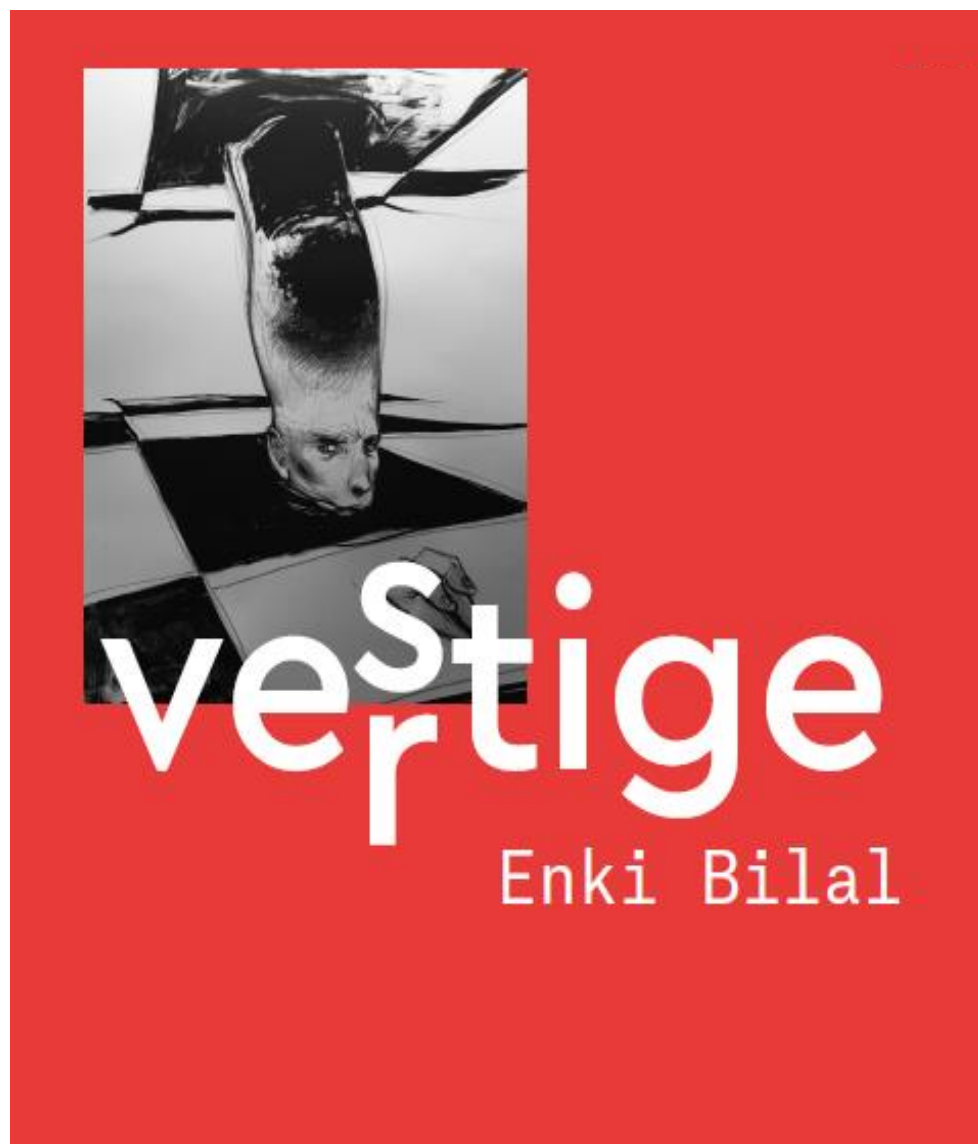


ENKI BILAL ON VIEW AT THE VENICE BIENNALE

Exhibition from 11 May to 31 July 2017



Exhibition

From 11 May to 31 July 2017

Museo Archeologico Nazionale
Piazza San Marco
30124 Venezia

Press Contact:

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Venise – Artcurial is pleased to lend its support to Enki Bilal's second exhibition in Venice, during the Contemporary Art Biennale. The installation *Ve(s)tige/Ve(r)tige* will be presented from 11th May to 31st July 2017, in the prestigious archaeological museum of Venice, San Marco Square.

Through his installation, Enki Bilal offers the visitor an experience combining transparency, reflection and sound vibrations, a mapping of vertigo, materialised in an imposing Plexiglas rectangle: The exposed objects - a lithographic stone, prints - original testimony of his own work, take on airs of archaeological discoveries. The artist builds on historical vestiges to create a relational space where past and present energies converge. The floor covering at the heart of this device, with its narrative connections and its symbolic figures, leads the viewer to a disconcerting architecture referring to his most recent works, destabilises the gaze with the reflections of a mirror, focusing on the magic of the moment.

There is no denying that Enki Bilal, among a small number of artist of the ninth art, has elevated this field of expression to an exceptional level. From the 80's to the present, Bilal has not ceased to experiment, tirelessly pursuing his sensorial approach to drawing *La Foire aux Immortels*, *Partie de chasse* or *La Femme piège* they constantly remind us of the extreme seriousness of his aesthetic world. The work on *Romeo and Juliet*, with the choreography by Angelin Preljocaj, the series of pictures made for *Bleu Sagn* and his cinematographic work perfectly illustrate his desire to open new perspectives.



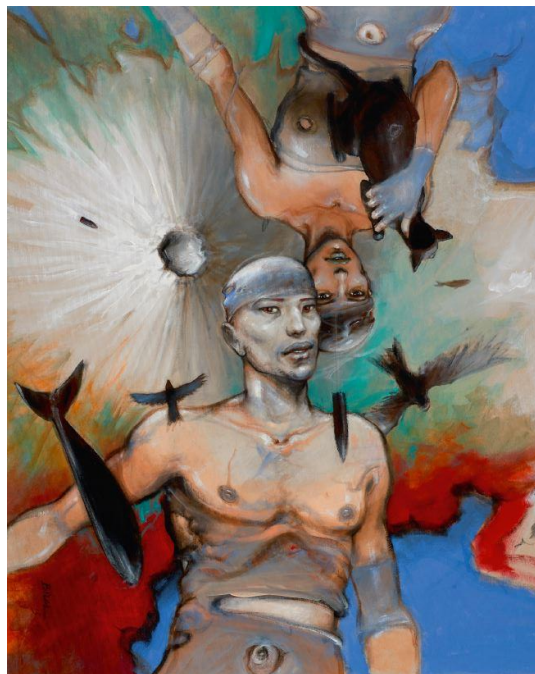
*« The buried stone,
the vestige of the depths,
to the ethereal altitude of Mount Fuji,
the vertigo of the flying carpet...»*

Enki Bilal

His *Inbox* installation at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini during the 56th Venice Art Biennale and then his exhibition «Enki Bilal Inbox - Hybridization [in love,]» at Chanel Nexus Hall in Tokyo (2016) gave him the opportunity to continue his way on visual memory and elements and to pursue a very expressionist world, listening to the world but always linked to a deeply European cultural heritage. In 2016, for the “Opéra en plein air” festival, he designed the costumes and set for *La Bohème*, by Giacomo Puccini. In 2017, he took part in the “Shoah et bande dessinée” exhibition, at the Shoah Memorial, in Paris.

For 10 years, Enki Bilal’s collaboration with Artcurial has undoubtedly responded to the desire to meet a new audience who considers that Enki Bilal is not only one of the greatest comic book author but also a contemporary artist. In 2007, the first auction dedicated exclusively to his work, *32 original works*, was immensely successful. This triumph has been confirmed over the years. *Enki Bilal - Animalz* in 2009 (the 350 original drawings of the album) *Ovimore* in 2013 (15 paintings), *from Paris to Hong Kong* in 2015 (17 original works, the highest auction award for a living artist with a piece of *La Femme Piège*).

Enki Bilal is an intuitive artist and an attentive observer who watches, with a slight distance, the ruptures and confluences of our time. Without a doubt, this reserve is essential to his thought, built around complex and ambiguous images, but which intelligently collide with the order of things in encouraging us to question ourselves. In any logic, his vision of the world has very often historical dimensions, as if this child of Belgrade, lover of the French language had not ceased to transcribe the consequences of dislocation and fractures which he has witnessed. For him, a work is a mirror punctuated by fragments of the past or existential fingerprints, a common thread which offers a route to the viewer’s imagination. And whatever the support used to express himself, Enki Bilal constantly needs to regain emotional immersion, integrating personal memories and prospective elements,



ABOUT ARTCURIAL

Founded in 2002, Artcurial, a multidisciplinary auction house based in Paris, reinforcing its leading position in the market of the international art in 2015.

With 3 sale venues in Paris, Monte-Carlo and Hong Kong, the House totals 210.1 million euros in sales volume in 2016, doubling its turnover in 5 years (+10% compared to 2015).

It covers the whole spectrum of major specialties: Beaux-Arts to decorative arts, collector automobiles, jewellery, collector timepieces, fine wines and spirits...

Resolutely turned toward the international market, Artcurial asserts its network abroad with representation offices in Brussels, Milan, Monte-Carlo, Munich and Vienna as well as a presence in Beijing and Tel Aviv, and biannual exhibitions in New York. In October 2015, Artcurial organised its first sale in Hong Kong and in Morocco.



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