

# CONTEMPORARY AND AFRICAN ART COLLECTION

**William Kentridge**

***Promenade II***

**2002**

**Four bronze sculptures with dark patina**

**Dimensions (from left to right):**

**13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in. (34.9 × 25.7 × 16.5 cm) • 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> × 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. (31.4 × 16.5 × 16.2 cm) • 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> × 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 7 in. (34.3 × 16.2 × 17.8 cm) • 15 × 14 × 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in. (38.1 × 35.6 × 17.1 cm)**

**Museum purchase by exchange, gift of Louise H. Courtelis with additional funds provided by the Caroline Julier and James G. Richardson Acquisition Fund and an anonymous donor**

**2003.13.1a-d**

William Kentridge lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa. He has created an extraordinary body of work that includes theater, opera, film, sculpture, and drawings that have won international acclaim. He is best known for his animated short films and the charcoal drawings on which they are based. These films and drawings bear the marks of erasures and revisions that suggest traces of history and memory. Kentridge's work reflects a deep engagement with the social and political history of South Africa and particularly apartheid. His grandfather was a successful industrialist, while his parents were prominent lawyers in the antiapartheid movement. In Kentridge's work the political is personal, merging autobiography with the grand themes of history and the intimate details of everyday life.



The bronze figures of *Promenade II* relate to Kentridge's film *Shadow Procession* and to other work that depicts endless marches of dislocated people moving through South Africa's historic and virtual landscape. Part human, part animal, part machine, these indeterminate figures bring to mind issues of migration, displacement, and labor. Depending upon the perspective of the viewer, the chameleon characters alter their shape in surreal, dreamlike dimensions. Their continuous journey relays the history and experience of those who have lived through the prolonged and brutal violence of apartheid.