

**Los Angeles Filmforum and Black Discourse present
Tabita Rezaire: Connectivity and Farming for the Future
Sunday September 17, 2023, 1:00 pm
At 2220 Arts + Archives**

Los Angeles Filmforum is the city's longest running organization dedicated to weekly screenings of experimental film, documentaries, video art, and experimental animation. 2023 is our 48th year. www.lafilmforum.org

Zoom Discussion following the screening with Tabita Rezaire, from French Guyana; Matazi Weathers, LACMA Assistant Curator of Film; Zion Estrada, director of Black Discourse; and the writer and artist Neema Githere.

Filmforum commissioned five artists to make new work, generously funded by the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts. We've hosted two thus far, and over the next few months will be presenting the premieres of the remaining three filmmakers, including discussions with the artists.

We're delighted to present works by Tabita Rezaire, including the theatrical world premiere of *Orbit Diapason*. Based in French Guyana (a province of France in South America, still remaining from colonial days), and frequently making work in Africa, Rezaire is a healer, artist, and farmer whose multi-faceted practice has revolved around concerns of the internet as a colonial technology, the possibilities of digital interfaces for spiritual and ancestral information, African spirituality, ecological collapse, untold histories of Black womxn, decolonizing uses of technology, and the power of the womb. The works we are exhibiting gather imagery from the internet, machinima, appropriated films, and her own interviews with philosophers and others in vivid and colorful geometric landscapes.

Tabita Rezaire is currently birthing AMAKABA, a space for the sciences and arts of the body, the earth and the sky. Anchored in Amazonian soil under the guidance of the forest, AMAKABA seeks to provide spiritual processes, agro-ecological nourishment, and cultural-scientific offerings to deepen our inner experience and share Amazonian wisdom. Amakaba currently takes care of a cacao farm on the Mhury mountain and is working on two pedagogical gardens, the first for medicinal plants for womb health, the second for vegetal dyes.

Amakaba is also opening a forest school and training doulas. Currently offering yoga classes, astronomical observation session, participatory farming gatherings, and celebrations, Amakaba is in service to each other, the land, the ancestors, and the great unseen, AMAKABA is a vision for collective healing. <https://tabitarezaire.com/>

In addition to the works being screened in person, with a remote discussion with Rezaire, three earlier works of hers will be available online for viewing before or after the show, from Monday September 11 to Friday September 22, available through the Filmforum website.

This program is made possible by generous support from the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts. <https://mikekelleyfoundation.org/>

Special thanks to Matazi Weathers, Zion Estrada, Neema Githere, Elif Temizkan , Mary Clare Stevens, Rochele Gomez

An extended interview with Rezaire by Eleanor Ford is available at Rhizome here. <https://rhizome.org/editorial/2018/feb/01/artist-profile-tabita-rezaire/>

BLACK DISCOURSE is a global multidisciplinary studio & oral tradition incubator, curating from the global black experience. We use research, archival practices and sonic storytelling tradition to uncover the immaterial, misunderstood, and unseen discourses that form our lived experiences. Our studio tells stories through the development and production of live events, art installations, film direction and sonic work production. We do this to build community across Africa and her diaspora. <https://www.blackdiscourse.co/>

Additional films of Rezaire's are available for viewing online. Additional details on these are available on the Filmforum website at <https://www.lafilmforum.org/schedule/summer-fall-2023/tabita-rezaire-connectivity-and-farming-for-the-future/>

Sorry for Real

2015, digital, color, sound, 17 min.

View at <https://vimeo.com/128877463>

Sugar Walls Teardom

2016, digital, color, sound, 21:30

View at <https://vimeo.com/171318210>

Deep Down Tidal

2017, digital, color, sound, 18:44

View at <https://vimeo.com/248887185>

The Art of Birth:

Ongong, 56 minutes

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pINJ8_NN0hPvEH81YorTWbv1uAQ7Xv1d/view

In-person films:

Premium Connect

2017, color, sound, digital, 13:04

Premium Connect envisions a study of information and communication technologies exploring African divination systems, the fungi underworld, ancestors communication and quantum physics to (re)think our information conduits. Overcoming the organism-spirit-device divide, this work explores spiritual connections as communication networks and the possibilities of decolonial technologies. Premium Connect investigates the cybernetic spaces where the organic, technological and spiritual worlds connect.

How can we use biological or metaphysical systems to fuel technological process of information, control and governance?

Contrary to the Eurocentric-biased thinking, our information super highway might find its roots in African spirituality. Significant research attributes the birth of binary mathematics - which is the foundation principle of computing sciences - to African divination systems such as Ifa from the Yoruba people, of West Africa.

We have much to recover in terms of connectivity and its potentialities. As modern science just recently discovered the role of underground fungi networks used by plants to communicate and transfer information, ancient tradition have long known how to communicate with nature and download its knowledge.

This study of dynamic networks from artificial, spiritual and biological environments digs into the politics of possibilities, where a techno-consciousness could nurture a mind-body-spirit-technology symbiosis.

Orbit Diapason

2021, color, sound, digital, 44:44

Los Angeles Premiere, and World Premiere of single-channel version

Commissioned in part by Los Angeles Filmforum, through a generous grant from the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts.

The stone circles in South Africa that are sometimes referred to as “the birth place of the sun” or “Adam’s Calendar” (<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/adams-calendar>) are full of mysteries. Some regard them sacred sites of ancestral spirituality, while others have suggested a connection with extraterrestrial beings. It isn’t just believers in alternative cosmologies who are looking for aliens—NASA is also systematically searching for evidence of

extraterrestrial life. This curiosity is driven partly by a desire to colonize new worlds, because we are rapidly destroying the one we have. The ecological crisis is alarming, and the decline in bee populations is thought by some to herald the apocalypse.

Hallucinatory and immersive, *Orbit Diapason* draws all these threads together to weave a tale about the world of the present, and the mythologies of the future. Whether the future promises escape routes or solutions for present-day problems, depends on our connection to the womb of the earth—so we're told. The film raises questions about the human tendency towards imperialism and the desire for interaction with alien life. Reflecting on our attitude towards the universe ultimately brings us closer to an understanding of how we live together on Earth. Normally, *Orbit Diapason* is presented in a honeycomb dome structure.

Cacao d'Amazonie

2021, Video, 21:12

Commissioned by Museo Madre, IT

Los Angeles Premiere

Farmers' Wisdom explores how land, societies and people can heal from the legacies of colonialism. The artist draws on Afro-diasporic and indigenous knowledge systems and practices of care, growth and transformation. Rezaire interviews farmers, seeking their guidance as she begins her own journey into agriculture.

Cacao D'Amazonie (2021) follows the farmers' mutual kinship with the forest, exploring how this translates into their work. It is one of a series of videos that question how local, scientific and spiritual knowledge is passed on from generation to generation. Other works in the series include Jardin Bois de Rose (2022), an educational garden growing traditional medicinal plants. Terre Rouge (2022) shows the traditional vision of indigenous agriculture as a way to recover ancestral practices. These videos question how local, scientific and spiritual knowledge is passed on from generation to generation.

Guests:

Tabita Rezaire is infinity longing to experience itself in human form. Her path as an artist, devotee, yogi, doula, and farmer is all geared towards manifesting the divine in herself and beyond. As an eternal seeker, Tabita's yearning for connection finds expression in her cross-dimensional practices, which envision network sciences - organic, electronic and spiritual - as healing technologies to serve the shift towards heart consciousness.

Embracing digital, corporeal and ancestral memory, she digs into scientific imaginaries and mystical realms to tackle the colonial wounds and energetic imbalances that affect the songs of our body-mind-spirits. Through screen interfaces and healing circles, her offerings aim to nurture our collective growth and expand our capacity for togetherness.

Tabita is based near Cayenne in French Guiana, where she is currently studying Agriculture and birthing AMAKABA - her vision for collective healing in the Amazonian forest. Tabita is devoted to becoming a mother to the world.

Her offerings have been shared widely – Centre Pompidou, Paris; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; MASP, São Paulo; Serpentine, London; MoMA, NY; New Museum, NY; Gropius Bau, Berlin; MMOMA, Moscow; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; ICA London; V&A London; National Gallery Denmark; The Broad LA; MoCADA, NY; Tate Modern, London; Museum of Modern Art, Paris – and presented for international biennales in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Kochi, Athens, and Berlin and Sydney. She is represented by the Goodman Gallery in South Africa.

Matazi Weathers (they/them) is a temporal and spatial farmer from Los Angeles always in the pursuit of new potentialities. They are the Assistant Curator of Film at LACMA, co-curated Strong-Sissy Black Movie Night - a cinema and political education space. They founded Black Bloom, a Black farmers cooperative in Los Angeles that

provides free education and mentorship to Black folks learning to grow. Previously, they've worked at the California African American Museum, The Underground Museum, Critical Resistance LA, REDCAT, Echo Park Film Center, and more. Matazi is active artistically as an image maker and storyteller - mostly through film and photography and is dedicated to an abolitionist and decolonial ethos in life and film, working to bring new visions to life that have the potential to materially change our realities.

Zion Estrada (she/her) is an interdisciplinary artist researcher living on Gabrielleno/Tongva Territory. Her work flows between archival assemblage filmmaking, sonic collage production and experiential design. Zion's experimental collage language in film and sonic works often use layering of field recordings, found sounds and carefully curated sound clips that score a line of discourse that complicate temporality, history and meaning making. Her practice is informed by the palimpsest.

She is most interested in the non-verbal and non-human qualities of storytelling in Africa and her diaspora (specifically the Caribbean) and how sounds hold the spirits of the past and the alchemic power to magnetize communities, movement, moods, and healing. She draws on the traditions of Black Trans abolitionists care making, sex worker solidarity, doula presence practices and movement architects love of release. Zion is co-founder and Creative Director of Black Discourse and owner of BZE Consultant LLC. <https://zionestrada.com/>

Neema Githere (they/them) (b. Nairobi, Kenya) is a writer, artist, and guerrilla theorist whose work explores love and indigeneity in a time of algorithmic debris. Having dreamt themselves into the world via the internet from an early age, Githere's work prototypes relationality-as-art through experiments that span community organizing, social design, travel and image-making. Githere is a 2023-24 Practitioner Fellow at the Digital Civil Society Lab at Stanford University, where they are working on a project entitled "Data Healing: A Call for Repair." <https://www.findingneema.online/>

This program is supported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles, and the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts. We also depend on our members, ticket buyers, and individual donors.

Coming soon:

Sept 24 - Collision Center: Movies by Mike Stoltz, at 2220 Arts

Oct 1 – Narcisa Hirsch transgenérico, at 2220 Arts

Oct 8 – Janie Geiser: Double Vision and The Fourth Watch, at 2220 Arts

Oct 16 – L'Inferno (1911) with live music by Montopolis, at Secret Movie Club

Memberships available, \$40 Student \$75 Individual, \$125 Dual, or \$225 Silver Nitrate

Contact us at lafilmforum@gmail.com.

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