

**Los Angeles Filmforum and the Autry Museum of the American West present
Experimentations: Imag(in)ing Knowledge in Film
Program 5: Ritualizing Knowledge Systems
Sunday, October 6, 2024, 7:30 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. 2024 is our 49th year. www.lafilmforum.org

Experimentations: Imag(In)ing Knowledge in Film is Filmforum's expansive film series and upcoming publication that investigates the ways that experimental and scientific films produce and question the visualization of the world. Combining artist films utilizing scientific imagery, science and natural history films, and films of indigenous and traditional knowledge, the series examines how science, nature, and technology films shape our understanding of humans, nature, gender, knowledge, and progress. The multi-venue public screening series presents analog and digital time-based media incorporating diverse scientific and experimental film traditions from across the globe. The series will include eighteen screenings between September 2024 and February 2025, with films and digital works from 1874 to today from around the world, multiple guests, panels and wonderful collaborations that will reveal the possibilities and circumstances of cinema in this realm.

Experimentations: Imag(in)ing Knowledge in Film is among more than 70 exhibitions and programs presented as part of PST ART. Returning in September 2024 with its latest edition, PST ART: Art & Science Collide, this landmark regional event explores the intersections of art and science, both past and present. PST ART is presented by Getty. For more information about PST ART: Art & Science Collide, please visit: pst.art.

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DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

Experimentations: Imag(In)ing Knowledge in Film, Program 5

Ritualizing Knowledge Systems

Discussion after the screening with, in person, Adebukola Bodunrin & Ezra Clayton Daniels and on Zoom, filmmaker/curator Daniel Muchina and filmmaker Philippa Ndisi Herrmann

This program of short experimental films and videos expands on the process of ritualizing bodies of knowledge, highlighting the role film plays as a cultural interface that engages sacred reflections and revelations informing the performance of rituals for cultural inheritance. Films from Russel Hlongwane, Francois Knoetze & Amy Wilson, Jim Chuchu, Philippa Ndisi Herrmann, Adebukola Bodunrin & Ezra Clayton Daniels, and anaïs extend the limits of its artistic form to include divergent worldviews. The aforementioned filmmakers use the technological capacity of cinema to manipulate the temporal and spatial in order to stage complex multi-dimensional stories, in turn reproducing memories and re-integrating repressed knowledge systems and cultural heritage.

Curated by Wangechi Ngugi and Daniel Muchina.

Daniel Muchina is a film & video artist working and living in Nairobi, Kenya. He's the co-founder and director at Monsoons Studio, an independently registered and licensed film production company. Muchina is currently the artistic director, researcher and writer for Art & Science Films Afrika (ASFA) a program designed to investigate ritual practices in prehistoric Africa, and the role art plays as a vestige of the knowledge informing these rituals. Using film and video art, the program seeks to build a bridge to link indigenous systems of knowledge embodied in African mythologies with modern Africa.

Wangechi Ngugi is an award-winning film producer and curator based in Nairobi, Kenya. With a deep passion for cinematic storytelling, she collaborates with filmmakers and artists to create impactful and resonant narratives. Wangechi is also the co-founder of Monsoons Creative Studio, a leading film production company in Kenya.

Adebukola Bodunrin is a Nigerian-Canadian film and video artist who is interested in the realms of language, culture, and media. Her innovative animations employ unconventional manual and digital techniques to create unique textural and narrative experiences. Her work has been featured at IFFR, Images Festival, Anthology Film Archives, BFI, REDCAT, MCA Chicago, Festival Animator, the Black Cinema House, and is in the permanent collection at the Whitney Museum. Her work on KCET's "Lost LA" series earned her an LA Area Emmy for segment direction. Her latest short film, *We Are Not Alone*, marks her debut in live-action direction and had its world premiere at SXSW 2024.

Ezra Clayton Daniels is a mixed-race American multidisciplinary artist and creator of the award-winning graphic novels *Upgrade Soul* (Oni Press) and *BTTM FDRS* (Fantagraphics Books). His short story "Pressure," was included in Jordan Peele's NYT Best-Selling horror anthology *Out There Screaming*, published by Random House. Ezra currently resides in Los

Angeles, where he writes for film and television, including *Doom Patrol* for HBO Max and the upcoming remake of Wes Craven's *The People Under the Stairs* for Monkeypaw Productions.

Of German and Kenyan heritage, **Philippa Ndisi Herrmann** is multi-disciplinary, straddling photography, poetry, documentary and fiction film. She is best known for *Seeds* (Ecumenical Jury Prize, Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen 2017) and her feature documentary, *New Moon* (Best Documentary, DIFF 2018). Philippa is also an actress, astrologer and psychic medium. She is based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Screening:

DZATA: The Institute of Technological Consciousness by Russel Hlongwane, Francois Knoetze and Amy Wilson

South Africa, 2022, digital, color, sound, 8:00

Dzata: The Institute of Technological Consciousness (2023) is a creative research project by South African artists Russel Hlongwane, Francois Knoetze and Amy Louise Wilson. In fabricating a fictional institute and its archive, the artists explore and imagine vernacular technological practices operating across the African continent.

Tapi! By Jim Chuchu,

Kenya, 2020, digital, color, sound, 25:00

Tapi! is a speculative documentary short film that explores the tension between indigenous spiritual practices and modern religious influences in Kenya. Directed by Jim Chuchu as part of The Nest Collective, the film follows Jackson, a young ritual healer and one of the last practitioners of utapishi, a traditional cleansing ceremony.

As local Christian church leaders seek to outlaw the practice, Jackson must confront the erasure of his people's complex history and spiritual traditions. The film was commissioned by the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) as part of their African Collectives Project, receiving its world premiere at IFFR 2020.

spirit moves by anais

UK, 2021, 16mm transferred to digital, color, sound, 6:00

Exploring the ancestral, traditional, cultural and spiritual ties that exist beyond the boundaries of the material dimensions, this art film visualizes the transient spirits that have come before us, watch over us, guide us, and protect us. The characters reference spiritual elements of Senegalese and Afro-Brazilian traditions, commemorating their interconnectivity within the Black diaspora, whilst tracing back anaiis' traveled upbringing and inspirations. United through movement and ritual, anaiis' guides are summoned into a meditative ceremony as an ode to the mystical powers that lead her path.

The Golden Chain by Adebukola Bodunrin & Ezra Clayton Daniels

USA, 2016, digital, color, sound, 6:00

The distant future. A Nigerian space station in a remote corner of the galaxy orbits an artificial pinpoint of matter so dense it cannot exist in our solar system. It is a recreation of the birth of the universe itself, contained for the purpose of study, and overseen by Yetunde, sole crew member on the space station Eko.

Seeds by Philippa Ndisi Herrmann

Kenya, 2017, digital, color, sound, 4:00

The sea was the first to see us and so the sea will be the last to leave us. A visual poem from Kenya that explores blood memory, creation myths and ancestry.

Afronauts by Nuotama Bodomo

USA, 2014, digital, b&w, sound, 14:00

It's July 16, 1969 America is preparing to launch Apollo 11. Thousands of miles away, the Zambia Space Academy hopes to beat America to the moon in this film inspired by true events.

Osaina by Daniel Muchina

Kenya, 2023, digital, color, sound, 2:00

A ritual performance art film which invokes the intuitive aesthetic powers of two critical elements in ritual practices in Africa, i.e. the human body as a process of being, and water as a living spirit in the alchemical process of purification and transformation.

Los Angeles Filmforum screenings are supported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture, the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles. We also depend on our members, ticket buyers, and individual donors.

Coming soon to Los Angeles Filmforum:

Oct 20 – La Casa Lobo (The Wolf House), at 2220 Arts + Archives

Oct 27 – Experimentations 6: Documentary and Science Fiction: Locating the Uncanny in 1980s Chinese Films, at 2220 Arts + Archives

Nov 3 – Experimentations 7: Carolina Caycedo: The Lives of Rivers, with VPAM, at 2220 Arts + Archives

Nov 10 – Experimentations 8: Beautiful Science, with “Sanctus” by Barbara Hammer and “Minute Bodies: The Intimate World of F. Percy Smith,” directed by Stuart A. Staples

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

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