

**Los Angeles Filmforum and the Autry Museum of the American West present
Experimentations: Imag(in)ing Knowledge in Film
Program 4: Repossessing the Spirit of Myths in Africa Through Cinema
Friday, October 4, 2024, 7:00 pm
At the Autry Museum of the American West**

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

The Autry is a museum dedicated to exploring and sharing the stories, experiences, and perceptions of the diverse peoples of the American West, connecting the past to the present to inspire our shared future. For more information, please visit TheAutry.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 4
Repossessing the Spirit of Myths in Africa Through Cinema: Yeelen
Yeelen, by Souleymane Cissé**

On Zoom: Filmmaker/curator Daniel Muchina

This program examines the technical capacity of filmmaking to encode and organize new myths for the expansiveness of modern African people. Pairing legendary Malian film *Yeelen* (Souleymane Cissé, 1987) with contemporary Kenyan film *Smoke Jumpers* (Daniel Muchina, 2023), this program illuminates the intricate relationship between the structured systems of knowledge prevalent in ancient African societies and the creation of visual narrative forms as vehicles for disseminating this wisdom. It investigates how the fusion of visual art and scientific methodology finds expression through cinema, evolving into a ceremonial conduit. -- Curated by Wangechi Ngugi and Daniel Muchina

Special thanks you Ben Fitzsimmons, Quyen Tran, Joie Estrella Horwitz

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.

Screening:

Smoke Jumpers

By Daniel Muchina, Kenya, 2023, digital, color, sound, 4:15

A mythical portrayal of a priestess attempting to cross the threshold between mortal and immortal worlds in search of resources for her ailing world. In this liminal space, she meets a group of deified figures known only as Smoke Jumpers; custodians of ancestral knowledge who trade her the secrets of their fire rituals but warn her against their practical use.

Yeelen

By Souleymane Cissé, Mali, 1987, 35mm transferred to digital, color, sound, 105 minutes

In this epic drama drawing on Bambara culture, which echoes mythic legends in an invented tale, a hero undergoes ordeals that allow him to renovate a decaying society. A young man must penetrate the secrets of the Komo cult (a real caste of specialist knowledge among the Bambara), whose members have abused their spiritual powers. Niamankoro suffers his father's wrath as he travels throughout the Bambara empire and Dogon and Peul societies.

Coming soon to Los Angeles Filmforum:

Oct 6 – Experimentations 5: Ritualizing Knowledge Systems, at 2220 Arts + Archives

Oct 20 – The Wolf House, at 2220 Arts + Archives

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

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

Nov 10 – Experimentations 8: Beautiful Science, with “Sanctus” by Barbara Hammer

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