

Boy.Brother.Friend

Announces Twelfth Artist Commission:

Jebi Labembika

Film:

Le jeu (Play)

Le Jeu is a surreal visual offering from Cameroonian-born artist Jebi Labembika and **Boy.Brother.Friend**, that seeks to interrogate the place of the Black body within the universe of French cinema. Drawing inspiration from Jean Genet's 1958 play *The Blacks*, the film, in looking at the experience of the black body in French cinema, aims at decolonizing it giving it the freewill to play around and express itself without socio-political constrictions. The film also seeks to interrogate the role of power; and the characters from world leaders to cultural authorities, who embody those powers and the politics around their aristocratic identities. The film's immersive, almost lucid treatment creates a blurring effect on the viewer, continuously toying with the concept of performance; blurring the line between the performer and those who are performed for.

Powered by strong visuals; sharp distinct costumes and brilliant colors, buffered by theatrical dance movements and unique sonic energy created with acute specificity for each scene.

In *Le Jeu*, Labembika hopes the viewer "Let themselves travel and get lost in the colors the angles and the sound. You begin to feel like a part of them, the more you watch it."





About the Artist:

I'm a Cameroonian born artist currently living in London. My childhood in Cameroon and entrance to adulthood in London is an aesthetic collaboration of both these experiences and holds a strong political narrative. Inspired by all things new and old, my work is also looking to question our reality, Creating new ideas and constantly refusing to conform to societies standards of knowledge. My west Africa upbringing is very apparent in my work as it is always looking to grow and expand the general understanding of west Africa art and its importance to the world. Through photography, style, performance, and film. I want the audience to not only enter my world but to create their own. Trauma manifests itself in various aspects of my work. Confronting the guilt of not being able to record memories as a child in Cameroon combined with the traumatising conflict of being faced with the western consideration of 'black art'. To be pushed in such a box not only tokenises black artists but restricts them to an aesthetic that is not all telling what inspires me is the memories that I never got to capture.



The ability to capture imagery in a way that reveals a specific narrative brings me back to my childhood curiosity; constantly asking questions and exposing the truth in the world. My work holds a similar intention: to reflect and expose my audience and their truths, my work is a mirror, when you leave the room you see yourself and question yourself, it's about you creating your own world with me. Let me see how you feel and let's have this conversation. I want you to disagree, let's discuss and evoke emotions that people have lost. The concept of performance is also a key narrative that drives my visual imagery, I play on the idea that to be exposed you must have an element of performance, the same way fiction reveals more of the author than a memoir, a performance reveals the artists true emotional subconscious.

Living in London, I feel such a performance manifests in the way that I do not over explain my concepts or intention, I rather let the audience decide a meaning for themselves. The absence of intimate context can often have a surreal connotation and thus can be perceived as a performance of some kind.

Photography, Film

& Art director: **Jebi Labembika**

Producer **Gabriella Lafor**

DOP: **Kai Blamey**

Editor: **Nic Ferguson-Lee**

Creative Direction & Style: **Kk Obi**

Music Composer: **Adam Kaye**

Casting Director: **Jordan Katende**

Casting Assistant: **Kandie Kandace**

Movement Director: **Yagamoto**

1st AC: **Angus Steele**

Camera Trainee: **Jamie Lai**

Spark: **Uncle Junz**

Photography Assistant: **Lucio Martus**

Set Designer: **Dora Miller**

Set Assistant: **Lucy Barsegian, Gulliver Whitby**

Make Up Artist: **Paige Whiting**

Hair: **Joy Matashi**

Production Assistant: **Chloe Ketter, Michael**

Ojogwu, Christina Tee, Rowan King

For further information
about **Jebi Labembika**
please visit:
[@jebi.labembika](https://www.instagram.com/jebi.labembika)

For further information
about **Boy.Brother.Friend:**
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