

Panel Discussion: Participants

Jean-Michel Kibushi, Director of *The Mbako Trial: Myth and Reality*



Photo: Jean-Michel Kibushi

Jean-Michel Kibushi Ndjate Wooto, screenwriter, director, director-producer of animated films and documentaries, is a transmitter of Congolese culture and currently a doctoral student in Art and Art Sciences at the University of Ghent and the Free University of Brussels.

Kibushi is a major pioneer of black African animated cinema and a specialist in stop-motion animation. Through his works – distributed in France and the United States – as well as through his trainings of animation professionals, he has contributed to the birth of Central African animated cinema. In 1988, he created the first mobile studio for the initiation and production of animated films in the DRC and in 2004, the rural festival Caravane de Cinéma Mobile pour le Sankuru. His research on animated cinema and creative documentary is a reflection on magical realism, expressed in the artistic representation of the character Aniato, Leopard Man, in his film *The Mbako Trial: Myth and Reality*.

Emil Hvidtfeldt, Director of *Dragging Chains*



Photo: Emil Hvidtfeldt

Emil Victor Hvidtfeldt is a visual anthropologist from Copenhagen, Denmark. He is educated in ethnographic filmmaking with a master's from UiT – The Arctic University of Norway. *Dragging Chains* was his master's thesis film. With an international outlook, Hvidtfeldt has a special interest in music, identity, (post)colonial studies, and audio-visual research. He is currently on the working committee of the Nordic Anthropological Film Association (NAFA).

Paul Basu, Director of *Ichi: Marks in Time*



Photo: Gregor Hübel

Paul Basu is Professor of Anthropology and Curator at the Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, specialising in critical heritage, museum and material culture studies in transcultural contexts. His work often involves re-engagements with colonial archives and collections relating to West Africa. Before becoming an anthropologist, Basu trained and worked in film and television production. He has curated numerous exhibitions,

has often engaged in museum and heritage consultancy work, and serves on various advisory boards.

Lani Cupchoy, Director of *Oceanbone*



Photo: Lani Cupchoy

Lani Cupchoy is an accomplished filmmaker whose work merges documentary, experimental, and ethnographic filmmaking to explore urgent themes of Indigenous sovereignty, cultural memory, and social justice. As a Xicana Afro-Indígena and Kānaka Maoli-Chinese storyteller, she is the director of six films, including *Truth Seekers* (2016), *Urban Seeds* (2019), *Food Medicine* (2020), *Aloha Soul Food* (2022), *Islandtrification* (2023), and *Oceanbone* (2025). Cupchoy's films have screened at film festivals, universities, and community venues, earning recognition for their powerful visual storytelling and commitment to Indigenous and decolonial narratives. Her filmmaking is distinguished by its poetic style, visually layered compositions, and grounded community collaborations.

Tarisi Vunidilo, Repatriation Scholar, *Oceanbone*



Photo: Tarisi Vunidilo

Tarisi Vunidilo, born in Suva, Fiji, is an Indigenous Fijian archaeologist, curator, and educator. She studied Pacific Geography and Sociology at the University of the South Pacific, followed by a postgraduate diploma in Archaeology from the Australian National University. She later earned a Master's degree in Anthropology from the University of Waikato and a PhD in Pacific Studies from the University of Auckland, specializing in Fijian cultural rights and the repatriation of museum objects. As the former head of the Archaeology Department at the Fiji Museum, she led excavations on several islands and served as Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Museums Association. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Hawai'i in Hilo, conducts research on Fijian objects at the Bishop Museum, and encourages Indigenous students to engage with the collections of their own cultures.

Amitabh Joshi, Director of *Have you seen my Gods?*



Photo: Amitabh Joshi

Amitabh Joshi is a director and producer whose work blends cultural storytelling with independent documentary and broadcast media. From 2014 to 2020 he was an instructor at the School of Visual Arts in New York City, where he taught in the Social Documentary MFA program. Since then Josh has directed and produced a number of films. His debut feature, *Tashi's Turbine*, was aired on PBS's WORLD Channel and screened at numerous international film festivals worldwide. Josh continues to create work across the US, Nepal, and beyond, focusing on intimate, human-centred stories rooted in place and history. His most recent film *Have you seen my Gods* is a lyrical feature documentary about the repatriation of stolen Nepali deities.

Deepak Tolange, Director of *Shiva Linga: A Visual Quest*



Deepak Tolange is a visual anthropologist, filmmaker, photographer, and researcher based in Kathmandu, Nepal, who is interested in innovation, history, culture, the environment, and social justice. Tolange completed his MA in Visual and Media Anthropology at Freie Universität Berlin (2014 – 2016). After graduation, he worked in Germany and Tanzania as a freelance filmmaker and photographer for two years. Since 2018, Tolange has been working as a visiting faculty member at Kathmandu University, teaching Photojournalism and Film Production. His paintings, photography, and documentary films *Shelter* (2013) and *Dust* (2016) have received multiple awards.

Photo: Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Ethnologisches Museum und Museum für Asiatische Kunst / Pierre Adenis

Sophia Bokop, Provenance Researcher, Ethnologisches Museum Berlin



Photo: Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Ethnologisches Museum und Museum für Asiatische Kunst / Juliane Eirich

Sophia Bokop is a provenance researcher in the project “The Collaborative Museum” at the Ethnologisches Museum and Museum für Asiatische Kunst. Together with international partners, she researches the histories, trajectories, and meanings of selected collections and their contexts of origin as part of collaborative, transdisciplinary projects.

Sophia Bokop will introduce the film *Shiva Linga: A Visual Quest*, which was developed as a museum project, alongside the filmmaker Deepak Tolang.

Hajooj Kuka, Director of *Reclaiming Nuba Images*



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Hajooj Kuka directed and produced *Akasha* (2018) which premiered at Venice International Film Festival and was subsequently shown at TIFF, BFI and AFI Fest. His 2014 feature documentary *Beats of the Antonov* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and won the People's Choice Documentary Award. Kuka's films have screened in over a hundred festivals worldwide, collecting several awards. Due to his work in the war-torn regions of Sudan, Kuka was named one of the Leading Global Thinkers of 2014 by the Foreign Policy Magazine. He trains and works with conflict affected communities on theatre of the oppressed and film projects.

Paola Ivanov, Curator, Ethnologisches Museum Berlin



Photo: August Haverkamp

Paola Ivanov is an anthropologist and curator responsible for the collections from East, Northeast, Central and South Africa at the Ethnologisches Museum of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, and a private lecturer at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin. Her research, publications, and exhibitions focus on the epistemologies and ontologies of African aesthetics, art, and material culture, as well as African history and global interconnections, with particular emphasis on the decolonisation of ethnographic museums. She has led long-term collaborative projects, especially with partners in Tanzania, addressing museum collections and their colonial provenances.

Ivanov will present the film *Reclaiming Nuba Images*, a museum project, alongside the filmmaker Hajooj Kuka.