

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

[Mariane Ibrahim Gallery](#), is pleased to announce “Pagans, the first solo exhibition dedicated to the Kenyan photographer and videographer, [Jim Chuchu](#). The exhibition will open May 7th and will run until June 13th, 2015, with an Artist reception on May 19th, from 6-8pm.

‘Pagans’ will feature a series of photographs and video installations which envisions a reconstruction of future-past anonymous African Deities and attempts to reconstruct pre-colonial religious practices in Africa. The series retrace various movements.

‘Chuchu takes us on other profound and dizzying journeys of psycho-spiritual time travel, spanning distant African pasts and potential Afro-futures, In so doing he remixes the popular religious experience of spirit possession—the penetration of the human body, at times willful, at times unbidden, by the vast, invisible forces of the universe. In many communities in African and its Diaspora, spiritual presences are summoned into the body of the novice through dance, music, chanting, masking and other disciplines. The initial experience of possession, many devotees explain, is often terrifying, experienced as a kind of dreadful, incapacitating illness or sense of freefall. Seeking healing, the possessed often join secret societies or “cults of affliction” that promise them relief from the terrors of the possessing other’.<sup>1</sup>

Jim Chuchu is a multi-disciplinary artist living and working in Nairobi, Kenya. His range of work includes films, photography and music. Chuchu directed his first short film, Homecoming and premiered at 2013 Durban International Film followed by screening at Toronto Film Festival, Santa Barbara international Film festival and recently Berlin International Film Festival His supernatural and sacred beings entail a desire to reconnect with Ancient cultures. Stories of our life, his last film, recount true stories of LGBT life in Kenya, has received international recognition and has been recently selected in the Documentary Fortnight 2015: MOMA’s International Festival of Nonfiction Film and Media.

<sup>1</sup> Mark Auslander PhD, Department of Anthropology and Museum Studies, Central Washington University