



# CURATORIAL PROPOSAL

## THE REBIRTH OF AN AN UNTOLD STORY

FOR HUMANCULTURE

AT NYC CULTURE CLUB GALLERY

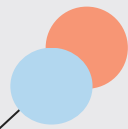
MARCH 7 TO APRIL 7 2024



[www.humanculture.org](http://www.humanculture.org)

# the themes

---



The exhibition aims to explore the complex relationship between fame, anonymity, and representation in the context of African culture, specifically the Maasai people. The exhibition will highlight the Maasai people's fashion, culture, and art while also examining how anonymity can allow cultural heritage and traditions to survive unadulterated while enabling other societies to benefit from cultural appropriation and misrepresentation through systems and power structures built around fame and visibility.

Pictured Above: Naserian



# Fame and Anonymity: Exploring the Human Culture of Maasai People



Noltente Oltulo and family

This exhibition is a unique opportunity to view and interact with beautiful and culturally significant artwork, while supporting the humanitarian work of a non-profit organization. HUMANCULTURE is an organization dedicated to preserving the life and culture of African people and all indigenous societies, especially in remote areas. In this exhibition, the Maasai people depicted in the art are all members of the Maasai community that HUMANCULTURE works with in Northern Tanzania.

## maasai society

Maasai people are members of a semi-nomadic ethnic group located in present day Kenya and Tanzania, known for their unique customs, clothing, and artistic expressions. Despite an ancient and rich cultural heritage, Maasai society has long been subject to marginalization and misrepresentation in popular culture. This exhibition aims to highlight the Maasai people's beauty, culture, and art, while also exploring the complicated relationship between fame, anonymity, and representation. Through this project, the public will explore how art can allow marginalized people to reclaim their narratives and be represented more humanly and authentically.



## the location



## NYC Culture Club

The NYC Culture Club, founded by Parker and Clayton Calvert. Situated in the heart of the C1 South Concourse within The Oculus, the NYC Culture Club benefits from its strategic placement in a downtown commercial hub. The Oculus serves as a central nexus connecting to nearly every public transit option in NYC, making it easily accessible to both locals and visitors. This prime location offers unparalleled exposure and foot traffic, ensuring the exhibitions hosted at the NYC Culture Club reach a diverse and extensive audience. The club's primary objective is to contribute to the cultural renaissance post-pandemic by providing an inclusive space for artists, curators, and the public. As a nonprofit, accessibility is emphasized, enabling artistic expression and cultural experiences for all.



## the center

---

Our proposed exhibition seeks to celebrate and honor the rare opportunity we have to showcase the beauty, richness, and complexity of Maasai culture through the lenses of our featured artists. One of the most special aspects of this exhibition is the possibility to bring Maasai leaders to the opening event, allowing for a deeper and more personal understanding of their points of view. The leaders will share their personal stories and perspectives, providing a glimpse into their traditions, beliefs, and way of life. We believe that this exhibition will be a powerful celebration of the Maasai people, their culture, and their contributions to the world. By fostering dialogue between the Maasai leaders and the audience, we hope to enrich our connection with Maasai people beyond what the artworks can convey.



Pictured Above: Elder Leader Paulo Molell



## the art

---



The exhibition will feature a diverse range of artworks, including paintings, photography, writing, objects, video and textiles, created by established and emerging international artists.

Many of the artworks will be made in complete collaboration with Maasai people, drawing inspiration from their personal experiences and ancestral traditions.

The works will aim to depict Black, Indigenous, African and most specifically Maasai people in the same way we are accustomed to seeing members of society in Europe and The Americas presented, with the works celebrating their individuality and beautiful complexity as human beings.

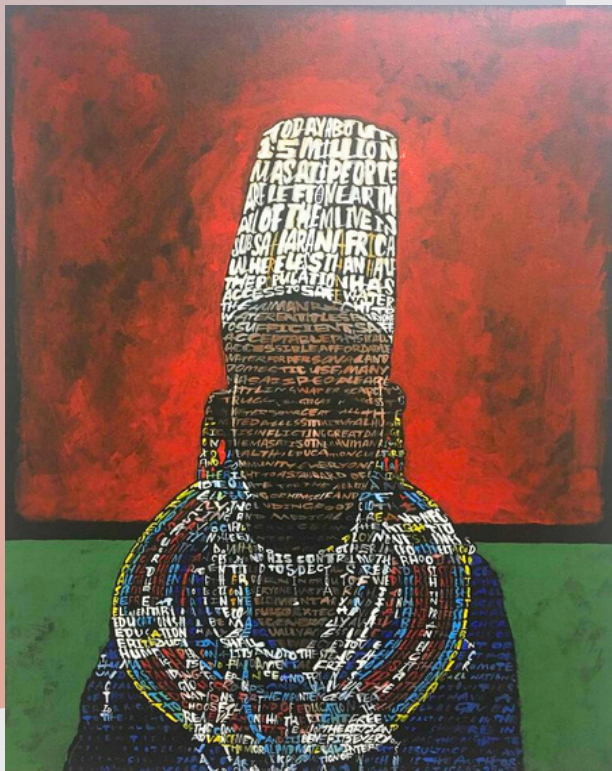
The exhibition will offer a unique opportunity for the public to engage with Maasai culture through completing imagery and unique objects. For example, visitors will be able to participate in interactive installations that allow them to create their own Maasai-inspired pieces or to try on traditional and modern Maasai clothing and jewelry.



David Hollier

- David Hollier - Painter

Born and raised in Wolverhampton in the U.K. David Hollier now resides and works from his studio in Bushwick, Brooklyn, N.Y. David Hollier creates images of cultural and political icons as composites of their famous words in the form of painted and typed text. He is represented by New Apostle Gallery in NYC, Gilles Clement Gallery in Connecticut, and Ap-Art Gallery in London.



In the series “Imago Verbosa,” David Hollier creates images of cultural and political icons as composites of their famous words in the form of painted and typed text. Part social commentary and part documentary, Hollier’s work literally blurs the lines between pop culture and politics and invites us to consider the power of words to influence and endure.

<https://davidhollier.com>





TIERRA ARMSTRONG

- Tierra Armstrong - Painter & Muralist

Tierra Armstrong (b.1997) is a Miami-based painter and muralist. Her paintings depict figures in sacred moments that transcend space and time. She uses religious iconography - colors as symbolism and light emanations - to articulate the divinity of Black bodies. Her work often explores the balanced duality of feminine and masculine energies irrespective of gender.



Influenced by her experiences in Mexico City and Chicago, she draws inspiration for her murals from the self-determinism of communities of color. She has been featured in various exhibitions including Museo del Juguete Antiguo México (Mexico City), and was commissioned to create the first Black Lives Matter mural in Miami in 2020.

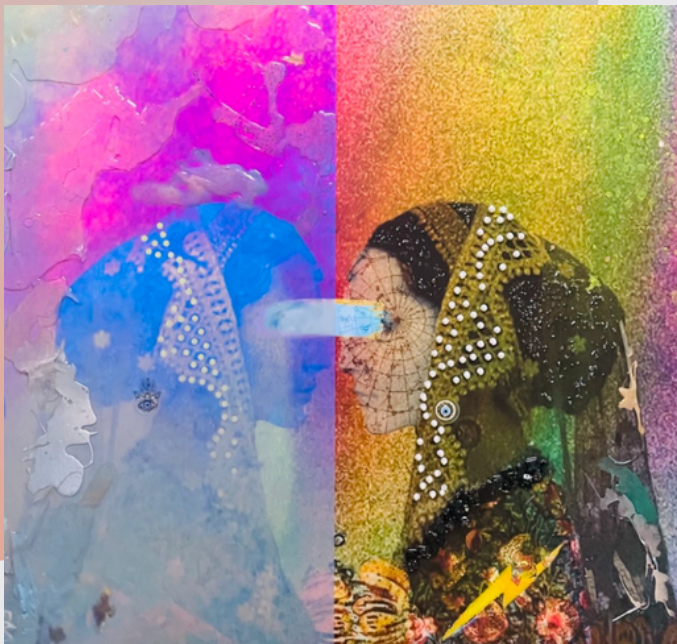
<https://tierraarmstrong.com>







**KK**  
**I AM KAVI**



- **KAVI - Visual Artist**

Kavi, a visual artist from Bombay, India, draws inspiration from the vibrant music of the 1960s and her own heritage. Since starting her artistic journey in 2003, she has cultivated a distinctive style that incorporates political phrases and poetry into her multi-layered works. Kavi's mission is to explore juxtaposed societies and cross-cultural boundaries, with reference to autobiographical experiences and personal influences, through her work.

Based in Daytona Beach, Florida, Kavi's talent and dedication have garnered attention from collectors and gallerists, establishing her as an artist of great interest. She actively contributes to the art community by serving on the board of the Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens and participating in Art in the Alley Daytona, an organization revitalizing downtown through public art and murals.

<https://iamkavi.com>





YEMI

- YOUNG YEMI -  
Multidisciplinary Artist

Adeyemi Adegbesan is a Toronto-based multi-disciplinary artist whose practice aims to examine the intersectionality of Black identity. Reflecting on Black cultural ideologies from pre-colonial, colonial, present day and future timelines; across regions, religions, varying levels of income and political lines, Adegbesan examines the dichotomy of the richness of Black experiences with the imposed societal homogeneity of ‘Blackness’. Through his work Adegbesan pulls from these varying elements to create Afro-futuristic portraits that embody themes of history, fantasy, speculative futures, and spirituality.

Adeyemi is a self-taught artist whose practice incorporates photography, mixed media collage, murals and assemblage. He works out of his studio and has shown work in Canada and the United States. He has also worked with brands such as HBO, Instagram, and the Toronto Raptors.

<https://youngyemi.com>





- Agenda Brown-  
Photographer

Agenda Brown, a London based visual adventurer and photographer, captures the world through his unique lens. His talent lies in discerningly portraying subjects and evoking empathy. With a cinematic approach, he positions individuals in a larger context, preserving their personalities against a worldly backdrop.

As the creative protagonist of Visual Marvelry™, Agenda authentically observes and comments on the lives of cosmopolitan artists and creatives. His imagery empowers the subject's personality to shine through, creating meaningful narratives. With an empathetic yet discerning style, Agenda's work engages viewers through portraiture, storytelling, and creative campaigns.

<https://visualmavelry.com>





- Anthony Liggins -  
Multidisciplinary Artist

Anthony Liggins, a worldly artist, draws from diverse cultures, colors, and flavors that shape his art. Rooted in the southern US, his creations transcend borders, inviting transformative journeys through frozen moments. As a humble messenger, he motivates and stimulates through masterful technique, imaginative compositions, and vibrant colors, encouraging open interpretation. With color's emotive power,

Anthony challenges thoughts harmoniously. Evolving from geometric images to vivid abstractions, his latest works feature dreamlike sunsets and moon glows, establishing an internal connection for profound meanings beyond sight—creating timeless art.

ANTHONY LIGGINS

<https://anthonyliggins.com>



## artist profile



- Disem - Murslist

Disem, is a Miami-based artist and illustrator of Latin American and Italiandecent. Disem is best known for his vibrant murals featuring photorealistic portraits against pink and teal Art Deco inspired graffiti. Referred to as both “pretty and gritty,” Disem’s work can be found on walls around the entire world, but most frequently in Miami where Miami New Times referred to his mural of Dwyane Wade as the “Best Public Art” in 2019.



Disem’s recent works include commissions for some of the world’s largest companies like Red Bull and Cricket Mobile, as well as pieces made for shows at Museum of Graffiti, Gallery 2612, and Uva Gallery. Disem’s signature and highlyrecognizable lettering continues today to expand onto apparel, houseware, and even Instagram filters.

<https://disem305.com>



## artist profile

---



- TBD - PHOTOGRAPHER

This project aims to capture the unique beauty and style of our team of Maasai people and their contributions to Paul Kadjo's sustainable fashion collection that blends Maasai style with modern design. [See photography proposal](#) for more details.

The photographer will travel to Tanzania to capture images of Maasai people wearing both their everyday clothing and Paul Kadjo's final creations. The final images will be featured in this exhibition connecting viewers to our Masai team, fashion, and celebrating their individuality.



-  
<https://>



**curated by**

stephanie zabriskie - founder of human culture

---



## **we are humanculture**

---

We work to preserve the life and culture of African and Indigenous people, especially remote societies. Our decolonial projects increase access to basic human rights and advance the proliferation of African and all indigenous culture.

Guided by local leaders and rooted in existing community practices, our humanitarian work improves sustainable access to safe water, food security, health services, education and economic freedom. HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESERVING CULTURE.

---

HUMANCULTURE



TAX ID 84-3253189

all donations are tax deductible  
to the extent allowed by law



- JARREL TOLBERT

Jarrel Tolbert is a creative director and storyteller who infuses his projects with a dynamic sensibility that reflects pop culture while maintaining a Chicago grit and a timeless, refined luxury quality.

He uses a multilayered approach, drawing inspiration from sports, film, and Black culture, and combines creative boldness and authenticity to stay at the forefront of style and aesthetic trends, telling real stories through art, product, activations, and campaigns. He takes inspiration from real-life experiences and cultural references, to combine with diverse brand interests and a responsibility to tell authentic stories through design, product, and campaigns. A true storyteller, positioned at the intersection of art, style, pop culture, and sports.

"Be timeless." - Jarrel Tolbert

<https://jarreltolbert.com>





## Inside Out: the rebirth of an untold story

---

Naishao Enkai below with goat



This ambitious exhibition aims to challenge the dominant western narrative of African and indigenous communities as primitive and exotic. By traveling to Tanzania and collaborating with the Maasai people, the exhibition seeks to center their humanity and shine a light on the richness and complexity of Maasai people and foster greater understanding and appreciation for remote African societies.

Through the power of art, the exhibition invites the viewer to engage with the Maasai people on a deeper level, to relate as fellow human beings. The engaging and immersive nature of the exhibition will make it appealing to a broad audience, whether they are specifically interested in learning about African and indigenous people or simply drawn to the visual beauty and richness of the artworks on display. These qualities, combined with its unprecedented intimate collaboration with its subjects, makes this exhibition a must-see event for anyone interested in exploring the rich diversity of human culture.





**THANK YOU**



---

**THE REBIRTH OF  
AN UNTOLD STORY**

**FOR HUMANCULTURE**

---

[www.humanculture.org](http://www.humanculture.org)