

Contemporary Photography

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Contemporary Photography

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Deadline for the Autumn 2022 issue is 1 September 2022.

**Contemporary Group ethos - Photography that conveys ideas, stimulates thought
and encourages interpretation; photographs 'about' rather than 'of'.**

M'kumba

Gui Christ

M'kumba is an ongoing project to document the Afro-religious stand against intolerance in Brazil. Its name is an ancient Kongo language word used to describe sorceresses and wisemen, but for centuries it has been pejoratively used to describe the African religiosities in the country.

For three hundred years, almost five million Yoruba, Bantu and Ewe peoples were brought to Brazil to work as slaves. Based on the medieval Christian theories that endorsed the use of African slave labour, these populations not only had their bodies kidnapped but their deities were associated with a devilish force that had to be combatted.

In this way, religions like Candomblé and Umbanda were forbidden in many parts of Brazil until 1970. Even after their legalisation and up to recent times, extremist Christian groups attacked temples and priests. In 2021 alone, over 600 religious attacks were reported in the country. Even now, despite the fact that 56% of the Brazilians are of African descent, less than 8% declare themselves as Afro-religious due to fear of being discriminated or attacked.

As a response to this violence, and as an Afro-religious priest in formation, I've started recording a younger generation proud of their religiosity, while in their moments of faith. My intention is to combat the prejudice and, through an intimate and enlightening perspective, show my understanding of these religions, and attempt to change the response to them in Brazil.

See: www.guichrist.com













