

## Phyllis Galembo: Peering behind the mask

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Phyllis Galembo has spent the better part of three decades peering behind the mask. In 1985 the photographer, who describes her work as 'both artistic and anthropological', travelled from her native America to West Africa and Haiti to take portraits of ritual priests and priestesses in ceremonial dress. Instantly, Galembo was enraptured by the rich beauty of masquerade and its traditional roles in different cultures, and decided to make the capturing of these extraordinary costumes her life's work.

Galembo's book, *Maske* (published by Aperture) – a word derived from Haitian Creole, meaning 'to wear a mask' – contains more than a hundred of her most arresting images, each subject a riot of colour, symbolism and mystery.