

# Nadeem Din-Gabisi, *MASS*, 2020

Online exhibition: FVU Watch [fvu.co.uk/watch](https://fvu.co.uk/watch) | 19 May - 18 June 2020



*MASS* is written and directed by artist, musician and poet Nadeem Din-Gabisi, and screens on FVU Watch for free from 19 May 2020. *MASS* is a new, experimental film that explores the theory of Black Visual Frequency, a term coined by academic Tina Campt in 2018. *MASS* follows The Seeker, a black woman living in a dystopian cityscape who, as if heeding to a call home from within, follows invisible signals to a place of sanctuary. Along the way, radio antennae, satellites and aerials act as signposts for shared wavelengths of communication. The radio is also the symbol around which the various sonic references in the film, from classical to dub to techno, take place. *MASS* pulls from Taoism, Ancient Egyptian iconography, Sun Ra's lectures on language, Jean-Luc Godard's *Breathless*, as well as the films of Spike Lee, Ousmane Sembene, and Michelangelo Antonioni. It is shot in 8mm, 16mm and digital formats. Working with a number of collaborators, including musician Coby Sey, artist-filmmaker Rhea Storr, and cinematographer Shivani Hassard, *MASS* combines poetic visuals with reverberant sounds to carve out the intimate communal spaces and intangible signals that characterise various aspects of the contemporary Black experience. See below for Nadeem Din-Gabisi's artist statement.

Press release: For immediate release  
May 2020

*MASS* (2020) by Nadeem Din-Gabisi is commissioned for *Frequencies*, a curatorial project initiated by Cynthia Silveira. Commissioned and produced by Film and Video Umbrella (Producer Leah McGurk) as part of FVU's Curatorial Practice Award. FVU is supported by Arts Council England.

Image credit: Nadeem Din-Gabisi, *MASS*, 2020, production still, courtesy of FVU and the artist

[See full selection of images here](#)

For interview requests contact Ellen O'Donohue Oddy [ellen@fvu.co.uk](mailto:ellen@fvu.co.uk)

#### Listings information

Online exhibition: Nadeem Din-Gabisi, *MASS*, 2020

Dates: 19 May - 18 June 2020

Exhibition: [fvu.co.uk/watch](http://fvu.co.uk/watch)

Project: [fvu.co.uk/projects/mass](http://fvu.co.uk/projects/mass)

Free to watch

Social media: #MASS

#### Artist Bio

Nadeem Din-Gabisi (b. London, 1992) is an artist (writer, painter, poet, musician and filmmaker). His artistic practice is centred around the re-presentation of the black image, pertaining to people of African Descent and the limitlessness of what it means to be black, other and more than that. His work critically and playfully examines himself, the current present and any and all time, before and after that. Last year Nadeem completed an artist in residence programme at Somerset House Studios after winning the Inaugural London Field Brewery Bursary in October 2018. He has a Masters Degree in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art and hosts a monthly radio show on NTS Radio. He has joined forces with Momoko Watanabe Gill (MettaShiba) to form a duo project titled *An Alien Called Harmony* and he is currently working on his own multimedia project, titled *POOL* in collaboration with artists Coby Sey, Kobby Adi, Nala Sinephro & Momoko Watanabe Gill.

### Artist Statement

*In the midst of a monochrome landscape the seeker journeys through noise, to find sound.*

The film *MASS*, written and directed by myself was prompted by a series of conversations Cynthia Silveira and I had around the term *Black Visual Frequency*, coined by theorist Tina Campt.

The film speaks of multiple frequencies. It speaks of the coldness of a city, turning gaunt as you walk through, the displacement of a people cashed and carried beyond reference and meaning. It speaks of remembrance, remembering our home(s) resides within, not without. It speaks of communication, antennas, renewal, trinities and time.

It speaks of The Seeker (Davinya Cooper) finding home within herself and with her people. Those people are Man (Issa Sissoko), those people are Woman (Sinead Hunter). They are her, they are not her.

She is them. She is not them. The Seeker, attired in black and white wanders through the city, searching for refuge and meaning. It is not found in the luxury flats rising above her, it is found in herself. Through waves and frequencies, she reaches herself. Reaching beyond the confines of singular experience to a collective one. Transmitting and receiving. Receiving and transmitting. Finding refuge and meaning in us, our selves and those around us. To remember our worth, a wealth undefinable by price and stock.

The representation of Black Woman as The Seeker is no accident. She represents herself yes, the Black community, yes. She also speaks beyond her physical confines and embodies any and all oppressed persons seeking, delving deep and heeding the call to return within.

The Seeker enters the sanctuary to see herself. In seeing herself, she finds others. They are her, they are not her. They are Man, they are Woman. They commune, they are community, they are *MASS*.

— Nadeem Din-Gabisi, Writer & Director of *MASS*

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Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates, produces and presents artists' moving-image works that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, FVU has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced nearly 200 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions. [fvu.co.uk](http://fvu.co.uk)