



# THE NEW YORKER

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## GALLERIES—CHELSEA

### **PHYLLIS GALEMBO**

Galembo, who has been documenting African rituals and celebrations since the late nineteen-eighties, shows big recent photographs of fantastically costumed men and women at ceremonies in Nigeria, Ghana, Zambia, and elsewhere. Whether seen outside or in, her subjects are the sole focus of the work, and the result is something between an anthropological study and a fashion shot, with equal attention to form and content. Although nearly everyone is masked, Galembo understands the language of the costumes—their humor, pathos, beauty, menace, and fierce pride. In a coup for minimalism, one figure from Sierra Leone disappears under a tall column of white and red fabric, turning absence into an extraordinary presence. Through April 2. (Kasher, 521 W. 23rd St. 212-966-3978.)