

[Water flowing]
[Spiritual Music]

I'm Trevor Schoonmaker

The chief curator and Patsy R. and Raymond D. Nasher Curator of contemporary art
at the Nasher Museum of art at Duke University

John Akomfrah is one of the pioneers of
experimental art cinema in the United Kingdom.

In 1982 he was the founder of the "Black Audio Film Collective"
and he is currently the director of "Smoking Dogs Films"

John is an artist I have known for a long time
and I knew his work would be perfect for
an exhibition I was organizing in New Orleans
a city-wide triennial called "Prospect.4: The Lotus in Spite of the Swamp"

John made this work specifically for that occasion

It premiered in fall of 2017 and the

Nasher Museum came on board to produce and commission the work

It has since then become part of our collection

here at the museum and we are very proud to have it in the collection

Hi my name is John Akomfrah

I'm an artist/filmmaker born in Ghana in Accra

I've lived and worked in London pretty much all my life

Behind me is "Precarity" which is my latest piece

It's 46 minutes long

The central figure of "Precarity" is

jazz legend Buddy Bolden

He's a legend because everyone

credits him with being the father of jazz

but actually no one knows a thing about

his life or his music

So "Precarity" is an attempt to try and make sense of what constitutes a legend