“When I was making Yeelen, I never thought the film would be exoticised. My aim was to set up a dialogue with myself first of all, to know what my existence would be in the future. The problems posed in this film continue to grow clearer today. What is changing is the relationship to magic. If I make a film today, I have to manage to project the human being into the vision of the world.”

“There are forces that cause you to modernise. I have no complexes about this. The calabash has important significations in our environment. I shouldn’t have to feel ashamed when I speak about myself.”
Above left: Film still from *Yeelen* (Mali, 1987, dir. Souleymane Cisse), featuring Issiaka Kane (as Niankoro). Below left: Film still from *Yeelen* (Mali, 1987, dir. Souleymane Cisse), featuring Niamanto Sanogo (as Soma).
Above right: Film still from Yeelen (Mali, 1987, dir. Souleymane Cisse), featuring Soumba Traore (as Mah).
Below right: Film still from Yeelen (Mali, 1987, dir. Souleymane Cisse), featuring Aoua Sangare (as Attou).
Bamana (or Bambara) peoples, Mali, Komo Association Helmet Mask, 20th century. Wood, animal fur, porcupine quills, antelope horns, feathers, mirror, sacrificial patina.