

LEBOHANG KGANYE

Dipina tsa Kganya, 2021, Three-channel Video Installation.



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Film Still collage from *Dipina tsa Kganya, 2021*
Three-channel Video Installation,
12 min 42 sec

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Dipina tsa Kganya (2021) is a black and white three-channel video installation work by South African artist, Lebohang Kganye. It features two performances informed by a notion of healing, enacted through acts of naming and cleansing. The word *dipina* means 'songs' in the artist's mother language of seSotho. The song referred to is that of her family clan names, traditionally passed down through oral

tradition. Additionally, the Sotho word for 'light': *kganya*—is in the etymology of the artist's last name: Kganye. A central visual component is the lighthouse featured in the middle channel of the video work. A light beam, in perpetual motion, casts light onto the surrounding ocean scene and in turn creates shadows in the two peripheral channels of the work. In the first or left video channel, a lighthouse keeper appears as a custodian of this light, tending to it by continually cleaning the bulb — a light source that symbolically guides those lost at sea. The song featured in the work (composed by musician Thandi Ntuli) plays from a large, custom-built Polyphonic music box, which is hand cranked in the third or right video channel. These performative gestures are in conversation with the southern African practice of the 'praise-singing' of clan names as a way of passing down the origins of the family story as an act of resistance to historical erasure, to insure its unwritten continuity.

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Dipina tsa Kganya, 2021, Three-channel Video Installation.



Dipina tsa Kganya, Three-channel Video Installation, 2021
Middle Channel Film Still



Dipina tsa Kganya, Three-channel Video Installation, 2021
Right Channel Film Still



Dipina tsa Kganya, Three-channel Video Installation, 2021
Left Channel Film Still