



Press release

Ke Lefa Laka
A solo exhibition by Tierney Fellow Lebohang Kganye

Opening: 7 August 2013
8 August – 11 September
Walkabout: 24 August, 10h30

The Photo Workshop Gallery

The Tierney Fellowship at the Market Photo Workshop in partnership with the Tierney Family Foundation was awarded to alumni Lebohang Kganye for 2012/2013. The goal of this project is to award an aspiring photographer the opportunity to develop their career and skills through this unique mentorship programme. The Tierney Fellowship creates an ideal space for a photographer to develop such a body of work. *Ke lefa laka* is Kganye's first solo exhibition and features work from a year's research into her family history using family photographs, testimonies from family members as well as personal narratives. She has been mentored by Nontobeko Ntombela and Mary Sibande.

Concept text

This photographic journey seems to be a deep response to loss and mourning – not just of different individuals, but of history, language and oral culture. *Ke Lefa Laka* is about memory, fantasy and identity formation and performance, a means for re-constructing my identity by reconnecting with family members both alive and dead and a larger family history. Through this process of attempting to trace my history, I have discovered that identity cannot be traced, just like the camera; it is a site for the performance of dreams and to stage the narratives of contradictions, half-truths, erasure, denial and hidden truths. A family identity therefore becomes an orchestrated fiction and a collective invention. While these images record history, it is only a history imagined. I will choose which part of the fantasy to take with me and claim as my story.

About Lebohang Kganye

Lebohang Kganye was born in 1990, in Katlehong, in the East Rand of Johannesburg. In 2009 Kganye began her studies in photography at the Market Photo Workshop, completing the Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced Course in Photography. Part of her work from the series *B(l)ack to Fairy tales* was shown at the 2011 Joburg Art Fair. Lebohang Kganye is the recipient of the 2012/2013 Market Photo Workshop Tierney Fellowship.

Mentors' statements

As Lebo's mentors we have had the pleasure of witnessing this project unfold in all sorts of interesting directions for over a year. Her journey with her mother, her grandfather and grandmother's past, offers an interesting space where Kganye is telling, constructing and molding her own biography. Her commitment and diligence to her work has produced worthy results in what is a unique idea and pushes the boundaries of photography. The accumulation of this archive is important and contributes beyond the creative outputs of photograph; it further deposits into the ongoing scholarship of archive in general as well as brings to the public incredibly important information about her family's history. We are very pleased and proud of her. Our relationship with Kganye was never about hierarchies of mentors and mentee, but rather as colleagues and it is because of this that we enjoyed every moment of working with Kganye.

Mentors: Nontobeko Nontobeko & Mary Sibande

About The Tierney Fellowship

The Tierney Fellowship was created in 2003 by The Tierney Family Foundation to support emerging artists in the field of photography. The primary goal of the Fellowship is to find aspiring artists who will be tomorrow's leaders and to assist them in overcoming challenges that photographers face at the start of their careers.

Tracy Edser, the first recipient of The Tierney Fellowship at the Market Photo Workshop, exhibited her body of work in a solo exhibition, *Amelioration*. Edser was mentored by Mikhael Subotzky. Simangele Kalisa, the second recipient, exhibited her body of work at a Joint Tierney Exhibition at the Substation Gallery, Wits University, with fellows Monique Pelsler and Ariane Questiaux. Kalisa was mentored by Jo Ractliffe. Thabiso Sekgala, the third recipient, exhibited a body of work entitled *Homeland* at The Photo Workshop Gallery in April 2011. Sekgala was mentored by Mikhael Subotzky. Mack Magagane, the fourth recipient, exhibited his work called *...in this city*, a reflection of Johannesburg city by night. The exhibition opened in April 2013 at The Photo Workshop Gallery. Magagane was mentored by Jo Ractliffe.

Please see <http://www.tierneymfellowship.org/> for more information.

About the Market Photo Workshop

For over twenty years, the Market Photo Workshop has played a pivotal role in the training of South Africa's photographers, ensuring that visual literacy reaches neglected and marginalized parts of our society. Since it was founded in 1989, by world-renowned photographer David Goldblatt, the Photo Workshop has been an agent of change and representation, informing photographers, visual artists, educators, students and broader communities of trends, issues, and debates in photography and visual culture.

The Market Photo Workshop also runs a number of Public Programmes, which are a series of events involving and directed at professional photographers, visual artists, educators, students as well as the broader public. These Public Programmes seek to

inform the trends, practices, methods, and contemporary ways of working and thinking in South African photography practice through exposure to a broad understanding of visual culture as well as a networking platform that encourages critical thinking and engagements.

Showcasing a number of high profile local and international photographers, as well as student and alumni photography work, the Market Photo Workshop has been able to build a strong and consistent audience base around our gallery, 'The Photo Workshop Gallery' in Newtown, which is on the same premises as the school. Since 2005, when the gallery was initially launched, the kind of platform it has engendered encourages not only emerging students to experience and enter into professional practice, but has distilled a new type of photographic practice amongst the greater artistic community. Various critical discourses, especially around the role documentary photography, have been stimulated by the multitude of exhibitions that have shown at The Photo Workshop Gallery creating dynamic interactions between students and the greater photography community.

For more information please visit <http://www.marketphotoworkshop.co.za>

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The Market Photo Workshop is a division of The Market Theatre Foundation.

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