

# Guardian Angel

Olukemi Lijadu

09.09 – 29.10.22

Commissioned by The ICA's annual programme Image Behaviour 2022, *Guardian Angel* is a multi-channel film installation by Nigerian artist Olukemi Lijadu. Using personal experience within her practice, Lijadu often works with family members, friends and her community to explore questions about the histories and cultures that have shaped her. Told through the personal lens of the artist's relationship with her late grandmother, *Guardian Angel* explores how Nigerian and western belief systems form relationships to religion and spirituality of post-colonial societies.

Borrowing from the form of an altarpiece in Christian churches, which traditionally depicts saints, biblical figures and events, the three-channel video features footage of the artist's grandmother interwoven with material recorded in Lagos, Dakar and London, as well as found videos and personal archival imagery. The film is visually and sonically composed like a collage – dream-like footage from the studio cuts to landscapes, written text, depictions of angelic statues, and excerpts from music videos, TV interviews with African philosophers and colonial missionaries. The sonic layer features edited voicemails, music and spoken word fluidly mixed together. Presented in a setting evoking the divine through the use of draped fabrics, the film tells a nuanced and complex story about belief, love and loss.

On the evening of 11 October *Guardian Angel* will be activated by a live music performance by the artist, responding to the film and playing parts of the score live.

**Olukemi Lijadu is a multi-disciplinary Nigerian artist with a focus on moving image and sound based work. Lijadu explores cross Atlantic collective, diasporic music and family history. She graduated from Stanford University with a M.A. in Philosophy, where she focused on Greek and African philosophical systems. Her work explores the interplay within and between these two worlds. Recipient of the ICA's Image Behaviour artist grant, Lijadu recently screened her film and multi-sensory installation Guardian Angel at the ICA London in March 2022 and again at the Art Centre in Gaborone, Botswana in June. Lijadu's sound design featured in Chris Zhongtian Yuan's recent film 'All Trace Is Gone, No Clamour for a Kiss' (2022).**

V.O. Curations

1. *Guardian Angel*  
2022  
Video, colour, sound  
Gauze and deadstock  
fabric  
24'31"



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