



HAITI'S
SPLENDOR

HAITI'S SPLENDOR

Before visiting Haiti in 2012, I researched it extensively, reading everything I could. An article in The Windsor Star was the thing that stuck with me the most. The title was perfect, Haiti's Squalor, Splendor. The full headline has stuck with me for a year "Haiti's Squalor, Splendor; Visiting this Caribbean island will change you life guaranteed". It is true, I will never be the same.

I returned home from Haiti with beautiful perfect color photographs. They did not begin to convey the whole of the experience. I decided it would be best if I reworked the photos, the following is the result of making my own lenses out of quartz crystals and reshooting everything. Quartz is said to have healing properties, I wish more than anything I could heal Haiti. This body of work better conveys my experience. The movement, the magic, the mystery of place and the people that are so dear to me.

The following is a sampling of the work. Haitians love proverbs, they use them all the time. Every image has a corresponding haitian proverb, each is in Creole with the English translation below.

JOSEPHINE CLOSE

all photographs ©josephine close, 2012



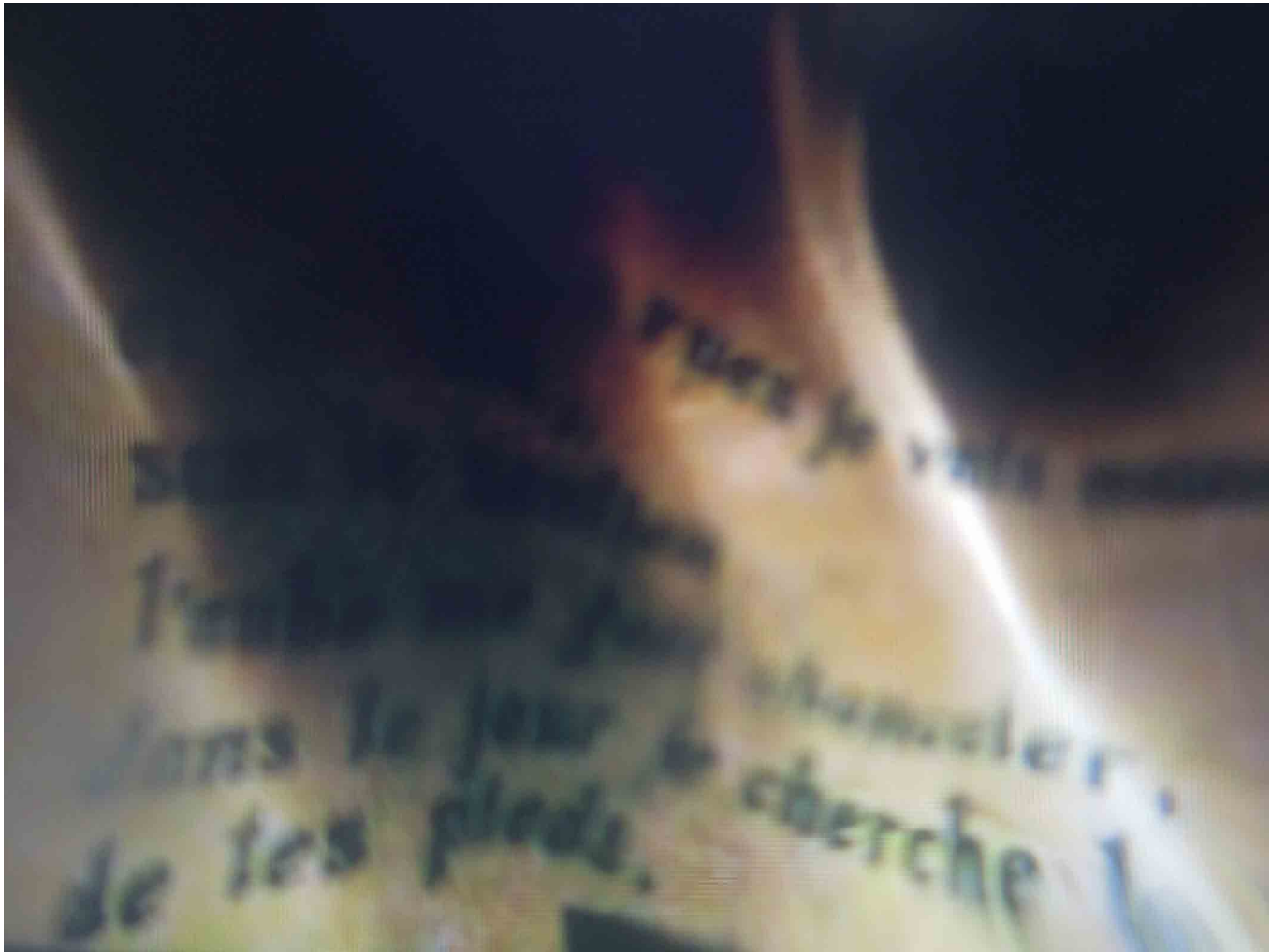
Sa ou fe, se li ou we.
What you do is what you see.



Moun pa se dra.
A protector is like a cloak.



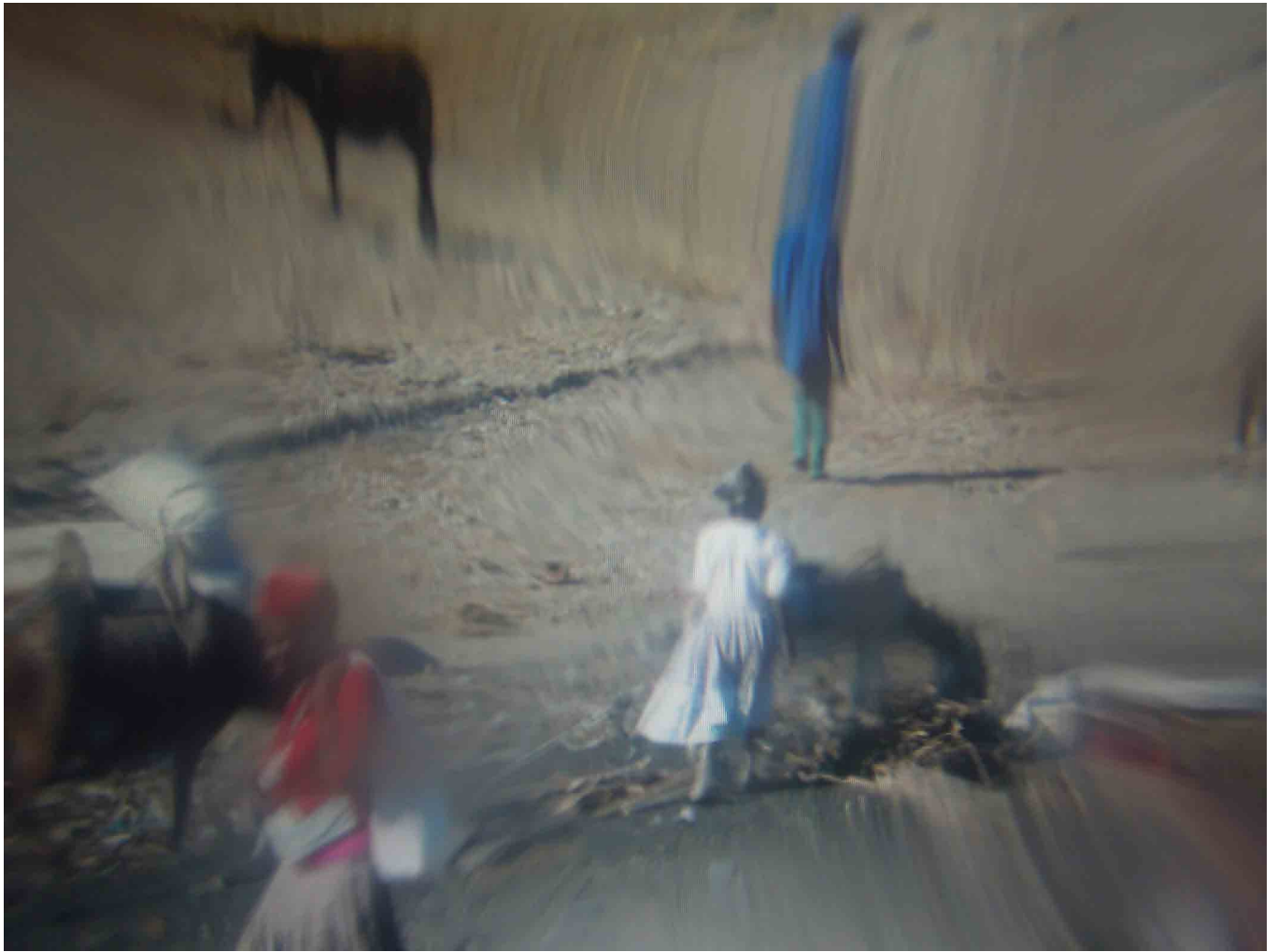
Anpre dans tanbou lou.
After the dance the drum is heavy.



Lafimen pa janm leve san dife.
Smoke never rises without fire.



Sa ou pa konnen pi gran pase ou.
What you do not know is bigger than you.



Men anpil, chay pa lou.
Many hands make the load lighter.



Tan ale, li pa tounen.
Time goes, but does not come back.



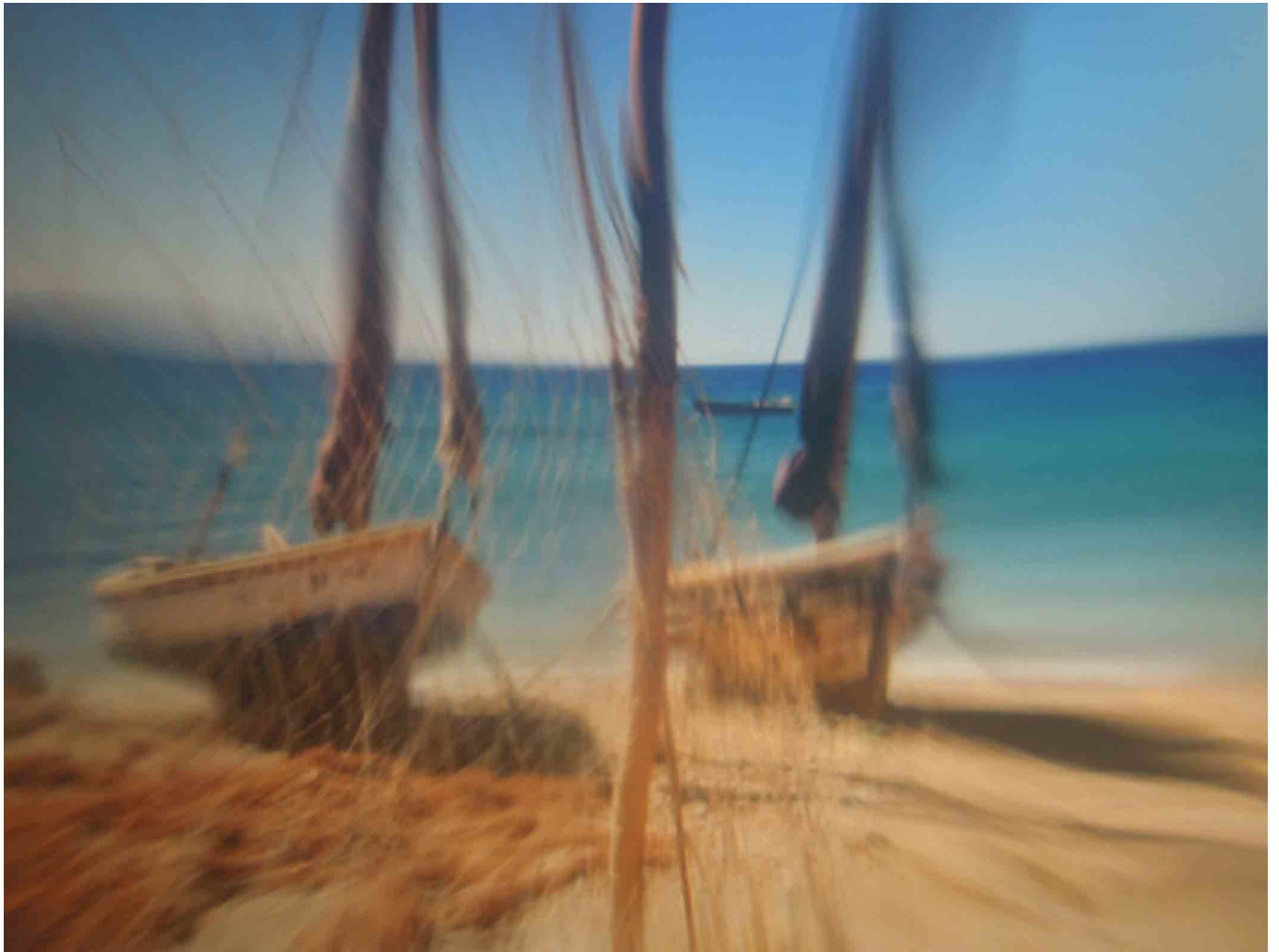
Pito ou mize ou nan wout, ou pote bon nouvèl.
Better to take your time on the way, if you bring good news.



Woch nan dio pa konnen doule woch nan soley.
The rock in the water does not know the pain of the rock in the sun.



Ayiti se tè glise.
Haiti is a sliding land.



Lespwa fè viv.
Hope makes one live.



Mapou mouri, kabrit manje fey li.
The goat's business is not the sheep's business.



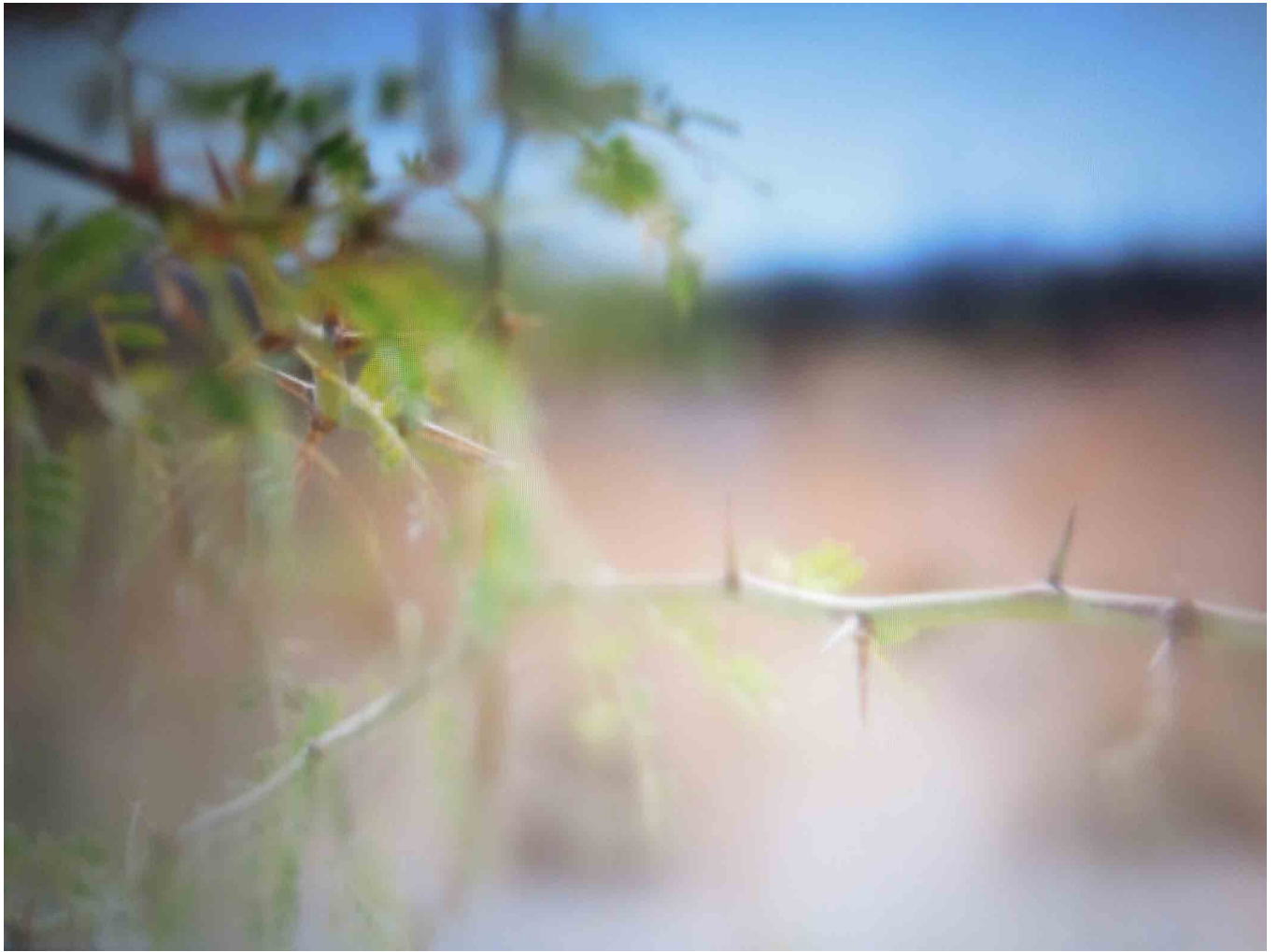
Souviens toi que tu es poussiere.
Remember that you are dust.



Byen prè pa lakay.
Very close is not home yet.



Neg di san fe.
People talk and don't act.



Piti piti zwazo fê nich.
Little by little the bird makes his nest.



Kay koule twompe soley soley men li pa twompe lapil.
A leaky house can fool the sun, but it can't fool the rain.



Dye mon, gen mon.
Beyond the mountains, more mountains.



Kreyon pep la pa gen gonm.
The peoples pencil has no eraser.



Pousyè pa leve san van.
Dust does not lift without wind.



Bondye fe san di.
God acts and doesn't talk.