

The Ian Potter Moving Image Commission presents

# ANGELICA MESITI: THE CALLING

Exhibiting at ACMI Tuesday 4 February to Sunday 13 July 2014

The Ian Potter Moving Image Commission proudly announces the world premiere exhibition *The Calling*, by acclaimed Australian artist Angelica Mesiti. Opening on Tuesday 4 February at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) with free admittance, the exhibition will run through until Sunday 13 July, 2014. This is the inaugural exhibition of the commission series, a 10 year joint initiative between The Ian Potter Cultural Trust (IPCT) and ACMI.

Angelica's work *The Calling* is an evocative exploration of traditional whistling languages. Still used as a communication tool across vast distances, Angelica chronicles three remote communities, Kuskoy in Turkey, Anita in Greece and La Gomera in the Canary Islands, capturing the tenacity and creativity of traditional communities in preserving important parts of their culture.

The work is a multi-channel video installation that will be displayed in ACMI's Gallery 2, in a purpose-built environment. The immersive experience has been in development over 15 months, with the commission allowing Angelica to conduct in-depth research into an area of interest first piqued through her work in her award-winning video installation *Citizen's Band* (2012). Angelica employed the context for and sound of the language, to explore its complexities in this new major artwork.

It was the medium of moving-image artwork coupled with sound exploration which moved her to develop this major work exploring the complexities of whistling languages.

In travelling to the communities, Angelica noted the flux of culture, seeking to research the metamorphosis of these dialects from everyday use to artefact. The work explores how these communities work to protect their traditional culture in the face of an ageing population, technical progress and environmental changes. Conservation of the tradition is undertaken by the introduction of the language into the education system, as well as through tourism.

To discuss her compelling new work, ACMI Curator Amita Kirpalani will host an *In Conversation* with Angelica on Wednesday 5 February. Extrapolating the context and content of her work as well as her creative process, this will be a rare insight into the machinations and complexities of creating, developing and producing a work of this scale.

The Ian Potter Moving Image Commission provides a mid-career Australian artist with financial, production and curatorial support to produce a major moving-image artwork, with an edition of the work entering the ACMI Collection to sit alongside works by other Australian and international artists such as Shaun Gladwell, Bill Viola, Candice Breitz and Warwick Thornton. Awarded biennially, the decade long project will contribute five major works and an award fund of \$500,000 to moving-image art.

*The Calling* will be at ACMI from Tuesday 4 February through to Sunday 13 July, 2014 and open to the public daily with free admittance. *In Conversation with Angelica Mesiti* will be on Wednesday 5 February at 6.15pm. For more information visit [acmi.net.au/mesiti-the-calling.aspx](http://acmi.net.au/mesiti-the-calling.aspx)

1 / 2

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, IMAGES OR INTERVIEWS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Donna Hillier**  
Communications Coordinator  
Telephone 03 8663 2475  
Fax 03 8663 2498  
Email [Donna.Hillier@acmi.net.au](mailto:Donna.Hillier@acmi.net.au)

Australian Centre  
for the Moving Image  
Federation Square  
Melbourne  
Website [www.acmi.net.au](http://www.acmi.net.au)



### **About the Artist**

Angelica Mesiti is a video, performance and installation artist based in Sydney and Paris. She uses cinematic filming devices to make studies of diverse human subjects in heightened states of rapture and performance. Her work *Citizens Band* (2012) premiered in NEW12 at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art and has since also been exhibited in the Istanbul Biennial, Turkey; the Aichi Triennial, Japan; Auckland Triennial, New Zealand; the Sharjah Biennial, United Arab Emirates; the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, India; and the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (all 2013). She has also been the recipient of various awards and fellowships including the Anne Landa Award for video and new media at the Art Gallery of New South Wales (2013), the AFTRS Creative Fellowship Award (2011) and the 58th Blake Prize for Religious and Spiritual Art (2009).

Angelica Mesiti is represented by Anna Schwartz Gallery. Produced by Felix Media.

### **About the Ian Potter Moving Image Commission (IPMIC)**

The Ian Potter Moving Image Commission is a 10 year joint initiative between The Ian Potter Cultural Trust and the Australian Centre for the Moving Image. A mid-career Australian artist is awarded \$100,000 with the aim to support the creation of a major moving-image artwork, providing financial support, curatorial and production expertise to help bring the artists' concepts to fruition. The commission series also endeavours to cultivate greater appreciation of moving image art among Australian audiences.

An edition of the work will enter the ACMI Collection and will sit alongside works by renowned Australian and international artists including Johan Grimonprez, Mona Hatoum, Anthony McCall, Bill Viola, and most recently new commissions by Candice Breitz, Ian Burns and Warwick Thornton.

The judging panel is chaired by Tony Sweeney, the panel comprised Annette Blonski, freelance script editor; Lucy Guerin, Artistic Director of Melbourne-based dance company Lucy Guerin Inc; Victoria Lynn, Director of Tarrawarra Museum of Art; David Rosetzky, artist; and Katrina Sedgwick, Head of Arts for ABC TV. Lady Potter AC acted as special advisor to the judges.

### **About The Ian Potter Cultural Trust (IPCT)**

The Ian Potter Cultural Trust was established in 1993 by The Ian Potter Foundation to encourage and support diversity and excellence among emerging Australian artists. The Trust's funding is governed by a commitment to excellence: it seeks to support individuals who are passionate about their work and have the potential to be outstanding in their field. The Trust's main funding stream offers grants to assist early career artists of exceptional talent to undertake professional development, usually overseas. To date more than 1,100 artists have received grants totalling over \$4.5million. The Ian Potter Arts Commissions represent the Trust's flagship award, complementing the main ongoing program of grants for individual artists. The Moving Image Commissions are the Trust's third major commissions program, following Music (composition) and Sculpture.

### **About the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)**

Located at the heart of Melbourne's iconic Federation Square, ACMI presents and champions the art and culture of the moving image, inspiring people to engage richly and actively with screen practice as it evolves globally and locally. Through a vibrant calendar of major exhibitions, film programs, live events, creative workshops, education and online programs, ACMI provides audiences with diverse ways to engage with the moving image. ACMI also contributes to the development and enrichment of contemporary Australian and international art by commissioning new artworks for exhibition that then become part of the ACMI Collection, preserved for future generations.

2/2

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, IMAGES OR INTERVIEWS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Donna Hillier**  
Communications Coordinator  
Telephone 03 8663 2475  
Fax 03 8663 2498  
Email [Donna.Hillier@acmi.net.au](mailto:Donna.Hillier@acmi.net.au)

Australian Centre  
for the Moving Image  
Federation Square  
Melbourne  
Website [www.acmi.net.au](http://www.acmi.net.au)

