

The Ian Potter Moving Image Commission presents

ANGELICA MESITI: THE CALLING OPENS TODAY

Exhibiting at ACMI Tuesday 4 February to Sunday 13 July 2014

The Ian Potter Moving Image Commission (IPMIC) is thrilled to announce that the new work by acclaimed artist Angelica Mesiti *The Calling* opens today. After fifteen months of work, filming in three countries; this ambitious moving-image artwork will reside at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) until 13 July.

The Calling is the inaugural work to come from the Commission, a ten year joint initiative between The Ian Potter Cultural Trust (IPCT) and ACMI. Angelica was awarded the commission in December 2012 after an international call for Australian artists to submit their proposals for consideration by the judging panel.

ACMI Director and Chair of the IPMIC Judging Panel Tony Sweeney said of Angelica Mesiti "Angelica's sensibility is poetic, lively and immediate and attuned to subtle relationships between performance, musicality and the visual image. This latest work *The Calling* exemplifies these talents on an ambitious scale and realised to stunning effect"

Projected against the length of the gallery wall, the three-channel video installation with sound is an immersive experience. In order to unpack the complexities of whistling languages explored in this work, Angelica has paired scenic landscapes with an immersive soundscape; comprising of whistling, silence and nature – birdsongs, grass rustles and sounds from the rural communities as they go about their lives.

Interested in looking at how cultural traditions, such as whistling languages, is kept alive in spite of evolution. In looking at three separate communities that are actively working at preserving the tradition, she found communities that are as tenacious as they are creative.

"The last 12 months working on *The Calling* has been a kind of odyssey and I'm very excited that the time to present the final work is here. It's been a privilege to work with these communities and develop the installation and now I look forward to passing it over to the viewers." says Angelica.

Commenting on the work, Chairman of The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, Mr Charles Goode AC said, "Our sincere congratulations to the inaugural commission recipient, Angelica Mesiti. The Ian Potter Moving Image Commission is one of the most valuable commissions in Australian fine art so our hopes and expectations were great. Ms Mesiti has created an extraordinary, evocative work, worthy of its place as the newest addition in the ACMI collection, alongside works by artists such as Shaun Gladwell, Candice Breitz and Warwick Thornton. *The Calling* is sets a high bar for the future of IPMIC."

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 For more information on the Ian Potter Moving Image Commission visit movingimagecommission.org.au

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, IMAGES OR INTERVIEWS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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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)

Launched in 2002, 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 for the inaugural commission was 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 1,200 artists have received grants totalling over \$5.7million. 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.

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