

MEDIA RELEASE
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**CONTEMPORARY VIDEO INSTALLATIONS BY AUSTRALIAN ARTIST ANGELICA MESITI
ON SHOW AT THE NGA**

The National Gallery of Australia launches a collection of five major works by Angelica Mesiti, including the recent acquisition of Mesiti's video installation, *The calling* (2013-14), on 9 September. One of Australia's most significant moving image practitioners, Mesiti has exhibited widely throughout Australia, North America and Europe. This is the first gallery exhibition of Mesiti's work.

The pieces capture Mesiti's exploration of non-verbal communication, especially sound and gesture. *The calling* explores the use of whistled languages in communities in Turkey, Greece and the Canary Islands. Through cinematic tableaux that emphasise each sideways glance and minute gesture, Mesiti presents a moving picture of an ancient means of communication threatened by modern technologies.

The NGA is presenting *The calling* alongside the award-winning *Rapture (silent anthem)* (2009), *Citizens band* (2012), *Nakh removed* (2015) and *The colour of saying* (2015) in its Contemporary Galleries until March 2018.

'It's an honour to be presenting my work at the NGA, and incredible for *The calling* to be included in its important collection,' Mesiti states. 'The NGA is such an important place for Australian art. I am so pleased that my works have been brought together as part of the NGA's dynamic new contemporary program.'

'Throughout her career, Angelica has explored the silent and the unspoken – the elements of human interaction too basic or complex to be articulated,' said Jaklyn Babington, NGA Senior Curator of Contemporary Art. 'This exhibition provides the perfect opportunity for visitors to experience the work of this internationally significant Australian artist.'

The installations are part of an ongoing series at the NGA focused on leading contemporary artists, and highlights the Gallery's renewed emphasis on the moving image.

Angelica Mesiti opens on 9 September until March 2018. The artist will be giving a talk at 2pm on 9 September (sold out).

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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MEDIA CENTRE

<https://nga.gov.au/aboutus/mediacentre/mesiti/default.cfm>