



PRESS RELEASE

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Angelica Mesiti: *Citizens Band* at the Williams College Museum of Art

Photos available upon request.

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Williamstown, Mass. – In its US debut Angelica Mesiti's *Citizens Band* opens at the Williams College Museum of Art (WCMA) and will be on view through January 4, 2015. Angelica Mesiti is a video, performance and installation artist living and working in Sydney and Paris. Mesiti's projects have focused on music, dance performance, the ballad, and oral storytelling traditions.

Citizens Band (2012) unites four individuals from Cameroon, Algeria, Mongolia, and Sudan in a cinematic and immersive multi-channel video installation. The performers, situated in Paris, Sydney or Brisbane—the large cosmopolitan cities that have become their adopted homes—carry on the traditions of their birthplaces through personal and intimate forms of music. The protagonists are encountered individually, each screen playing in succession. Each musical interlude, its own deeply private moment, occurs in a very public location—a community pool, a crowded subway, a taxicab, or a street corner. Generated with little more than their bodies alone, the sound emerges from deep within each player and penetrates and fills the gallery. The video culminates in a powerful fifth piece of music,

along with abstract visuals, that weaves together the four distinct expressions with the cacophonous background of the bustling cities.

"We're excited to bring this important work by Angelica Mesiti to the US and the college community," said Lisa Dorin, WCMA Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs. "Her particular non-verbal, very bodily form of storytelling resonates on a deeply human level. With an amazing economy of means her video fuses transnational migration, ritual, music and performance traditions, naturally connecting to a range of disciplines across campus."

About the Artist

Angelica Mesiti's solo exhibitions include *Rapture (silent anthem)* Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane and *The Line of Lode and Death of Charlie Day, 24HR* Art Northern Territory Centre for Contemporary Art, Darwin (2012). Her work has been shown widely in international venues including: Sharjah Biennale II, United Arab Emirates. (2013); Kochi Muziris Biennial, Kochi, India (2012); Seventeenth International Art Festival Videobrasil, Sao Paulo, Brasil; London Australia Film Festival, The Barbican, London, UK; South by Southeast, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan (2011). She was a founding member of the Sydney artist run gallery Imperial Slacks and curated the video publication *Serial 7's*. Mesiti was also a member of the collaborative group *The Kingpins*, who performed in international venues including: The Musée d'Art Modern de la Ville de Paris (2007); Liverpool Biennial, UK; and The Palais de Tokyo (2006).

The Williams College Museum of Art

WCMA sparks new ways of thinking about art and the visual world through its innovative exhibitions, programs, publications and projects. At the heart of the Williams College campus the museum draws on the collaborative and multidisciplinary ethos of the surrounding college to enliven the more than 14,000 works in its growing collection. The museum and its collection is a catalyst for student learning and community engagement. Situated in the rich cultural landscape of the Berkshires, WCMA is free and open to all. WCMA is located on Main Street in Williamstown, Massachusetts. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed on Wednesdays. The museum is wheelchair accessible and admission is FREE. For more information, contact the museum at (413) 597-2429 or visit wcma.williams.edu.

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