

*Angelica Mesiti:
Relay League*

30 November 2017 - 24
February 2018

Exhibition
Labels

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Appel à tous. Ceci est notre dernier cri avant notre silence éternel.

Calling all, this is our final cry before our eternal silence.

Relay League, a term for a telegraphic transmission from one receiver to the next, takes as its departure point a Morse code message transmitted by the French Navy on 31 January 1997 to signal the imminent demise of this communication method. Morse code, a system of dot and dash radio signals often utilised as a language of distress at sea, was phased out after 130 years in favour of new digital communications. Inspired by this final poetic phrase, Mesiti interprets its original dots and dashes through music, choreography, and non-verbal communication.

The first of the three-channel works features the musician-composer Uriel Barthélemy translating the Morse code message into a percussive score that permeates throughout the gallery. The second shows a unique form of dialogue and exchange between two dancers, Emilia Wibron Vesterlund and vision impaired Sindri Runudde. Together the pair has developed an intimate and corporeal language that communicates movement and gesture; Emilia guides Sindri's understanding of choreography through the touch and feel of her body against his. The third depicts the dancer Filipe Lourenço interpreting Uriel's percussive sounds in a new choreography that directly references silence and vision

through gestures loosely drawn from the vernacular of folk dance. This final work reveals a dialogue playing out between each of the performers, and the dots and dashes transmitted throughout the gallery produce a subtle dissonance so that the work continually slips back and forth between cohesion and dissolution. *Relay League* leaves a sensory impression of a language that has been transformed into a code, which in turn iterates as a score, a performance and a haptic exchange, enabling multiple acts of translation across time and space.

Mesiti's practice chronicles our present condition. She continues to grapple with experiences such as crisis and displacement - whether economic, political, social, cultural or otherwise - and confront the emotional states of distress, vulnerability and uncertainty. *Relay League* invokes a fundamental humility, bringing to the surface aspects of human subjectivity that are often obscured from view. To this end, the work offers a counterpoint: more than simply making visible the forms through which language and expression are silenced, she allows these complex and vital tools of human relations to materialise in ways that emphasise our need for empathy, compassion and connection.



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Angelica Mesiti

b. 1976 Australia

Relay League 2017

Three-channel video, 8 minutes

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney Purchased with funds provided by the Breen Mills Foundation 2017

Writer/Director/Editor

Angelica Mesiti

Performers

Drummer: Uriel Barthélemy

Dancers: Sindri Runudde & Emilia Wibron Vesterlund, Filipe Lourenço

Production Producer: Anne Becker/ PLATÔ

Cinematographer: Pierre Jouvion B

Camera operators: Antoine Laurens, Jules Boudon-Chambre

Sound recordists: Marc Parazon, Jonathan Pons

Grip: Benjamin Masset, Benoît Morvan, Mathieu Andrieux Sound design and mix: Liam Egan

Colourist: Billy Wychgel

Post Production coordinator: Davis Gross Definition Films Location: CND Centre National de la Danse Paris

Thank you to Mathew McWilliams.