

# Media

# Release

# acmi

## Zanny Begg awarded inaugural Artbank + ACMI Commission

ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image), together with Artbank, is excited to announce artist and activist **Zanny Begg** as the recipient of the inaugural \$70,000 Artbank + ACMI Commission for her proposed video installation *The Beehive* about the murder of Sydney activist Juanita Nielsen.

“I am so excited to have been awarded this incredible opportunity from ACMI and Artbank. I hope to work with the legacy of Juanita Nielsen to explore the fate of our inner-city neighbourhoods. *The Beehive* was chosen as a title to reference Juanita’s distinctive hairdo, but also a poetic disjunction embedded within the ways we think about the city; it is both an industrious, utilitarian, hierarchical hub and a dark sweet cooperative womb,” said Zanny Begg.

Based on the unsolved murder of famous Sydney anti-development campaigner Juanita Nielsen in 1975, *The Beehive* examines themes of gentrification, corruption, sex-work, feminism and non-conformist lifestyles. Created using an algorithm, the film will be randomly compiled from a reservoir of scripted fictions, documentary interviews and choreographed sequences exploring the implications of this infamous cold case and how they can be applied today. Using the tropes of true crime, the work will morph and evolve with each viewing, offering audiences different glimpses and interpretations of the crime.

ACMI Director and CEO Katrina Sedgwick said: “Zanny Begg is a thoughtful voice at the forefront of a generation of filmmakers examining radical, queer and unruly bodies. Her proposed work *The Beehive* is not only topical but a sorely needed examination of the consequences of gentrification and the role cities play in our lives. We’re thrilled, together with Artbank, to award Begg the Artbank + ACMI Commission, providing her with the support to pursue and extend her practice. Begg’s probing cinematic artworks defy categorisation, and it’s exactly these types of works that the Artbank + ACMI Commission was designed for.”

“Zanny is at the vanguard of artists working at the intersection of visual arts and filmmaking in Australia and her outstanding application, *The Beehive*, shows just why she continues to dominate in this arena. Examining themes of gentrification, corruption and forensic architecture, *The Beehive* will be shot in Kings Cross and prove a timely examination of urban politics past and present. Artbank, together with ACMI, is proud to announce Zanny as the first recipient of the Artbank + ACMI Commission, an initiative to support Australian creatives, and we look forward to connecting the outcomes of this project to the broader public through our art leasing program,” said Director of Artbank, Tony Stephens.

Established in partnership with Artbank, the federal government’s flagship support program for Australian contemporary artists, the Artbank + ACMI Commission is a three year commissioning program that will enable Australian artists and filmmakers to create new works that are conceived at the intersection of art and cinema.

This partnership further expands ACMI’s vibrant commissioning program, which through a series of vital collaborations – with Artbank, Ian Potter Foundation, City of Melbourne and the Mordant Family – will directly fund Australian artists with \$650,000 worth of financial support to create new work over the next three years and then exhibit it to thousands of people at ACMI and beyond.

*The Beehive* will be exhibited at ACMI in 2018. For more information, visit [acmi.net.au/commissions](http://acmi.net.au/commissions)

*Continues over page*

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

Imogen Craddock Kandel  
Media & Communications Coordinator  
T 03 8663 2475  
M 0434 603 655  
E [Imogen.CraddockKandel@acmi.net.au](mailto:Imogen.CraddockKandel@acmi.net.au)

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

**CREATIVE VICTORIA**

# Media

# Release

# acmi

## Background:

ACMI is rapidly expanding its commissioning capacity of new screen-based works. The \$100,000 biennial Ian Potter Moving Image Commission, supported Angelica Mesiti's [The Calling](#) (2014), Daniel Crooks' [Phantom Ride](#) (2016) and was most recently awarded to [Soda Jerk](#). Its exhibitions program have premiered commissioned works including Julian Rosefeldt's [Manifesto](#) (2015) which played at Sundance to critical acclaim, and Yang Fudong's [The Coloured Sky: New Women II](#) (2014). The inaugural \$80,000 [Mordant Family VR Commission](#), established earlier this year to support established visual artists to create a new work for VR, was awarded to contemporary artist Christian Thompson in May 2017.

ACMI is increasingly exploring new territory by commissioning works that transform live performance into VR experiences, expanding the possibilities of theatre, dance and puppetry through new technology. In 2016, ACMI co-commissioned and premiered virtual reality experiences of Sandpit's play [Ghost, Toast and the Things Unsaid](#) with Google Creative Lab and Grumpy Sailor, and [Stuck in the Middle With You](#), an immersive dance experience by renowned choreographer Gideon Obarzanek and award-winning filmmaker Matthew Bate. Most recently in September 2017, ACMI premiered a third cross-disciplinary VR co-commission [Prehistoric VR](#) by Sydney-based puppetry company Erth.

## ENDS

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

The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) is Australia's national museum of film and television, video games and virtual reality, digital culture and art. Distinct in the museum landscape in Australia, ACMI celebrates the moving image and its profound impact over the last 120 years as it transports, challenges and entertains people of all ages and backgrounds, right across the globe.

Established by the State Government in 2003, and situated at the very heart of Melbourne in Federation Square, ACMI explores the rapid evolution and astonishing creativity of the moving image with a vibrant, multilayered program of exhibitions, screenings, installations and commissions, festivals, and public, industry & education programs.

ACMI presents its stories and objects in unique ways, spanning the conventions of traditional museums and reflecting the innovation and evolution in our fast-moving world. It is the most successful museum of its kind in the world, attracting over 2 million visitors to its museum and international touring programs in 2015/2016. More at [acmi.net.au](http://acmi.net.au)

### About Artbank

Established in 1980, Artbank's two core objectives are to support Australian contemporary artists through the acquisition of their work and to promote the value of Australian contemporary art to the broader public. The Artbank collection is comprised of approximately 10,000 works by over 3,500 artists, across media, and includes some of the best examples of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia art produced over the last four decades. Artbank makes this work accessible through an art leasing program which is accessed by corporate, private and government clients nationally and internationally. More at [artbank.gov.au](http://artbank.gov.au)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,  
IMAGES OR INTERVIEWS,  
PLEASE CONTACT:

Imogen Craddock Kandel  
Media & Communications Coordinator  
T 03 8663 2475  
M 0434 603 655  
E [Imogen.CraddockKandel@acmi.net.au](mailto:Imogen.CraddockKandel@acmi.net.au)

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

CREATIVE VICTORIA