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# There is no there— Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano

**08 December 2018 to 10 February 2019**

Free entry | Open daily 10am to 5pm

This summer Geelong Gallery presents two moving image works by Melbourne-based artists **Gabriella Mangano** and **Silvana Mangano**: *There is no there* (2015), acquired in early 2018, and the Australian premiere of the artists' most recent work, *When mountains move* (2018).

Gabriella and Silvana have built an exceptional reputation for their moving image works since graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2003. Working collaboratively, and often performing together, they explore the relationship of the body with material objects, space and time.

**Jason Smith**, Director & CEO, Geelong Gallery says 'We are delighted to exhibit these recent works by highly respected artists Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano and provide our audiences with engaging and thought provoking experiences over the summer period'.

*There is no there* evolved from the artists' interest in an early 20th century performance collective, the Blue Blouse theatre (1923–32) a troupe renowned for 'Living Newspapers' performances, where members acted-out topical events. Taking interest in the repetition of gestures and representations of gender in contemporary newspapers, Gabriella and Silvana created a series of choreographed sequences: such as the covering of eyes, accusatory pointing, or crossing arms in signs of protest. The resulting work is literally a moving portrait of the social and political events represented through the media, to capture a collective of strong, defiant and resilient women.

**Lisa Sullivan**, Senior Curator, Geelong Gallery comments '*There is no there* is a work that looks to the past, is of the time it was made in its response to media coverage of 2015, and is a work that has a currency today, particularly if we consider the status of journalists and news coverage globally. Donald Trump's attacks on journalism, the rise in prominence of 'fake news' and post-truth politics, and the extensive media coverage of the #metoo campaign all lend an added potency to the Manganos' engaging work.'



Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano  
*There is no there* (still) 2015  
single-channel High Definition digital video; 16:9, black and white, sound  
10 minutes 27 seconds; edition 2 of 3  
Geelong Gallery  
Purchased with funds generously provided by Geelong Contemporary, 2018  
Reproduced courtesy of the artists and Anna Schwartz Gallery



Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano  
*When mountains move* (still) 2018  
three-channel High Definition digital video; 16:9, black and white, colour, sound  
length variable  
Commissioned by the Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Japan  
Reproduced courtesy of the artists and Anna Schwartz Gallery

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Early 20th century feminism and the power of the collective also inform *When mountains move*, which evolved from an artist residency at the Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Japan. Gabriella and Silvana researched Japan's first all-women literary publication, *Bluestocking (Seito)* magazine (1911–16). They took inspiration from Akiko Yosano's poem *The day the mountains move*, a rallying cry for Japan's feminist movement, published in the first edition of *Bluestocking*. In developing the work, the artists engaged local Aomori women to visually translate the poem. Presented across three screens, representing written text, gesture as text, and landscape as text, the Manganos explore the power of the collective through performance and highlight the enduring relevance of history to the present day.

## About the artists

Born in Stanthorpe, Queensland, in 1972, Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano have largely worked collaboratively throughout their artistic careers. This is a central focus for their work, with their similar selves often featuring as a starting point for ideas and actions. Their performance and videos explore the relationship between the body and its ability to form connection with objects, time and space. This is communicated in the artists' work through subtle gestures, physical intimacy and interactions with immediate environments.

Gabriella and Silvana have exhibited extensively in Australia and overseas, in both solo and group exhibitions. They are represented in the following public collections: National Gallery of Australia (Canberra), Geelong Gallery (Victoria), QAGOMA / Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art (Brisbane), Monash University Museum of Art (Melbourne), Art Gallery of New South Wales (Sydney), Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (Sydney), UQ Art Museum, University of Queensland (Brisbane), Art Gallery of Western Australia (Perth), Chartwell Collection (Auckland); as well as private collections across Australia and Europe.

Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano are represented by Anna Schwartz Gallery.

## Events

Join Gabriella Mangano for a floortalk discussing *There is no there* and *When mountains move*.  
Saturday 15 December, from 11.00am.  
This is a free event.

## Media contact—

For further information, to request interviews or high-resolution images, please contact:

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## Exhibition partner

