

SIOPIS' FILMS BROUGHT  
TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AFRICA  
AFRICA PREMIERE OF *WELCOME VISITORS!*

Cape Town (13 February 2018) – Today, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA) announces the opening of a new exhibition by Penny Siopis, *Penny Siopis, This is a True Story: Six Films (1997-2017)*, on Friday 16 February 2018 in its Centre for the Moving Image.

This is the first time that Siopis' film works have been brought together in one venue in Africa to allow the viewer a comprehensive understanding of her work. It also marks the Africa premiere of her new film *Welcome Visitors!*, originally commissioned for Prospect 4 New Orleans 2017.

This unique presentation of Siopis' work has been curated by Michaela Limberis, Wendy Fisher Assistant Curator of the Moving Image, and Precious Mhone, Torben Wind Assistant Curator of the Moving Image, Centre for the Moving Image, Zeitz MOCAA.

*Penny Siopis, This is a True Story: Six Films (1997-2017)* will showcase 20 years of film-making by the artist. The films make use of found and historical 8 mm and 16 mm film footage, drawing from official documents, newspaper clippings and personalised accounts of history to create an overlooked historiography. The exhibition evokes ideas of truth as a merging of experience, fact, fiction, imagination and the fragility of memory.

"Having followed her work for many years, Siopis' paintings have always been at the forefront when thinking of her as an artist," says Michaela Limberis, Wendy Fisher Assistant Curator of the Moving Image, Centre for the Moving Image, Zeitz MOCAA.

"In addition to demonstrating the strength of the Centre for the Moving Image in its capacity to show a sequence of moving image works simultaneously, this exhibition also provides viewers with the opportunity to understand the self-referential language within the films and how Siopis' films have progressed over time."

“Each intimate chamber in the Centre projects the first-person narrative of an individual caught up in larger social and political forces. Each story has an elemental quality that speaks beyond its origins,” says Precious Mhone, Torben Wind Assistant Curator of the Moving Image, Centre for the Moving Image, Zeitz MOCAA.

The story is told through a voice present in the text: A Greek migrant, a disembodied Irish nun, a man not at home in his own mind, the ever-changing strains of a piece of music such as the melody in *Welcome Visitors!*. The individuals’ stories become connected through a shared sense of real and imagined displacement in Southern Africa, echoed in this physical space.

The text in the films becomes “the voice in the head” created by the artist and re-created by the spectator in every instance of reading, looking and listening.

Mark Coetzee, Executive Director and Chief Curator, Zeitz MOCAA, says: “To have the opportunity to exhibit two decades of her film works is a significant moment not only for the artist but also for Zeitz MOCAA and its Centre for the Moving Image.”

**Exhibition name** Penny Siopis, *This is a True Story: Six Films (1997-2017)*

**Curators** Michaela Limberis, Wendy Fisher Assistant Curator of the Moving Image, and Precious Mhone, Torben Wind Assistant Curator of the Moving Image, Centre for the Moving Image, Zeitz MOCAA

**Run dates** Friday 16 February 2018 – Sunday 15 July 2018

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Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA)

Silo District, South Arm Road, V&A Waterfront

Cape Town, 8002, South Africa

[zeitzmocaa.museum](http://zeitzmocaa.museum)

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## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

### **About the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA)**

Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA) is a public not-for-profit contemporary art museum that collects, preserves, researches and exhibits 21<sup>st</sup>-century art from Africa and its Diaspora; hosts international exhibitions; develops supporting educational and enrichment programmes; encourages intercultural understanding; and guarantees access for all.

More than one hundred galleries, spread over nine floors, are dedicated to a large cutting-edge permanent collection; temporary exhibitions; and Centres for Art Education, Curatorial Excellence, Performative Practice, Photography, the Moving Image, and the Costume Institute.

Zeitz MOCAA was established through a partnership between the V&A Waterfront led by CEO David Green—acting on behalf of Growthpoint Properties Limited and the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF), represented by the Public Investment Corporation Limited (PIC)—and collector Jochen Zeitz. The building was reimagined through a design by the acclaimed London-based Heatherwick Studio. Mark Coetzee serves as the Executive Director and Chief Curator.

The Zeitz MOCAA board consists of David Green and Jochen Zeitz (Co-chairs), Isaac Julien and Wangechi Mutu (Artist Board Members), Suzanne Ackerman, Jody Allen, Jonathan Bloch, Kate Garwood, Pulane Kingston, Gasant Orrie, Albie Sachs, Anton Taljaard, Roger Ross Williams and Mark Coetzee (Ex Officio).