



Chasing the Disappeared

Filomena Coppola

The Anthony Gallery

Friday 12 April – Sunday 8 September

In *Chasing the Disappeared*, Filomena Coppola uses the markings of the Tasmanian Tiger (Thylacine) to explore cultural loss. For the artist, these markings symbolise the loss of the first generation of Italians that came to Australia in the 1950's. With their passing we lose stories, dialects, recipes and memories that marked their early crossings to Australia.

The exhibition includes two small drawn panels which are true to the markings of the Tiger and act as talisman pieces to Coppola's major work, an eight metre long horizontal drawing. This monumental drawing depicts the Thylacine markings, drawn vertically and repeated to create a sense of a seismic reading; a line of fossilised backbones; markers of time; journeys across continents; or sound waves which carry the silent voices and dialects. The work is drawn to resemble fur, thus appearing tactile and inviting to the viewer. The drawing is a direct reference to lineal time which the viewer will participate in as they walk along its length. It represents time past and time ahead; looking back on what has gone before and ahead to what is yet to come.



The artist gratefully acknowledges the support of the Shugg Group

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Chasing the Disappeared (detail) 2012

pastel on paper

107.0 x 800.0cm

Photography: Darren Seiler