

Ana Carmela Garcia (Aotearoa New Zealand/Philippines)

...Reconnecting...

2022

Telephone, wooden bench, door, light, acrylic pen

...*Reconnecting*... is inspired by Ana Garcia's experiences living and making as a migrant practitioner. It explores phone calls between the artist and her late grandmother who lived in Manila.

For Garcia, phone calls between family members overseas are often an overlooked experience in a migrant's life and reveals much about the state of identity for new generation migrants. In ...*Reconnecting*..., Garcia enables visitors to connect with her via the telephone. Transforming the space into an active telephone booth, Garcia creates a private space for conversation and connection. Replete with a concertina door, light fixture and phone booth directory characteristic of the 1930s, Garcia's project recalls a time before mobile phones. Writing on the booth's walls memories and excerpts from conversations with her grandmother, Garcia fills the space with moments of personal connection.

During the exhibition Garcia will call the phone, fitting these calls around her everyday life, while voicemails from her missed calls will be played aloud to the gallery at random intervals. Making her schedule available for audiences to view, Garcia engages the visitor's own freedom to contact her, fostering new connections between callers and awakening the migrant in all of us. Recognising that conversations may seem simple or awkward, Garcia believes it is these seemingly insignificant moments of connection that are integral to our everyday existence and therefore our identities.

...*Reconnecting*... acts as a site of triangulation where Garcia's own migrant background, Gus Fisher Gallery's repurposed telephone booth and the person on the other end become contributors to a better sense of cultural identity.

Courtesy of the artist