

Lindsay Seers

Every Thought There Ever Was

John Hansard Gallery
8 February to 11 April 2020

#JHGSeers

John Hansard Gallery,
part of the University of
Southampton, is pleased
to present **Every Thought
There Ever Was** from
8 February to 11 April 2020.

Through the use of digital animation, robotics, film, drawing and sound design, Lindsay Seers has created a complex and layered environment that explores a world experienced differently. Inspired by Avatar Therapy, Seers draws on philosophical ideas and scientific research to consider historical representations of schizophrenia, alongside contemporary insights into the condition and how this relates to the hallucinatory and potentially psychosis-inducing technology we live with.

Every Thought There Ever Was reflects on the otherworldly brain functioning that occurs in schizophrenia as an organic difference. The artwork is layered with intense subjective experiences relating to the historic and contemporary understanding of hallucination and psychosis. When you enter the exhibition, two screens, supported by robot arms, move with the images bringing agency to them as active elements in the work. The screens themselves become robotic protagonists, moving with coloured lights which animate paper sculptures, alongside a dense audio-track from seven channels seeming to be both inside and outside of the viewer's mind. Through this exhibition Seers asks us, has the virtual overwhelmed the actual?

Pursuing her ongoing fascination with how an individual's biography embodies history, Seers takes Victorian surgeon James Miranda Barry as her narrator. Barry was the Inspector General of military hospitals, making significant reforms to institutions then known as asylums, and the treatment of so called 'lunatics'. Through this exhibition, Barry travels in time to become an Avatar with the ability to cure.

Accompanying *Every Thought There Ever Was*, John Hansard Gallery also presents examples from Seers' The Letter Paintings series. Since 2017, Seers has been engaged in a drawing exchange with several artists, exploring how perception may or may not be effected by neural conditions. The resulting intricate artworks map the exchanges with individuals whom she knows predominantly through posting drawings to one another, bypassing text and speech as the means of communication.

Every Thought There Ever Was is supported by Wellcome and has been co-commissioned by John Hansard Gallery, the MAC, Focal Point Gallery and Hospitalfield and Matt's Gallery.

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Notes to Editors

Lindsay Seers works in London and lives on the Isle of Sheppey. She studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London (BA Hons, Sculpture and Media 1991–94) and at Goldsmiths College, University of London (MA Fine Art 1999–2001), where she now works as a lecturer on MA Fine Art (O.2). Her works are in a number of collections including Tate Collection, Arts Council Collection, Artangel Collection and the collection of MONA, Tasmania. She has won several prestigious grants and awards such as the Sharjah Art Foundation Production Award, UAE; Le Jeu de Paume production award for the Toulouse Festival, France; the Paul Hamlyn Award; the Derek Jarman Award; AHRC Award; a number of Arts Council England and British Council Awards in support of her works and she also received the Wingate Scholarship from The British School at Rome. She has shown her large scale works internationally at a number of museums and art centres including SMK (National Gallery of Denmark); Venice Biennale; Hayward Gallery, UK; MONA, Tasmania; Bonniers Konsthall, Sweden; Smart Project Space, Amsterdam; Kiasma, Finland; Turner Contemporary; Tate Triennial; TPW, Canada; Sami Centre for Art, Norway; Centre for Contemporary Art Poland and Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art. She has forthcoming solo shows in 2020 in Ikon Gallery and Sharjah Art Foundation, Flying Saucer, UAE.

John Hansard Gallery

John Hansard Gallery is an internationally recognised and locally engaged contemporary art gallery in Southampton. Being part of the University of Southampton, the Gallery aims to change the world for the better through great art. To realise this the Gallery creates innovative and critically acclaimed contemporary art exhibitions, events, engagement and research projects that excite, challenge, represent and reach the widest possible public audience. From 1979 the Gallery was located on the University's Highfield Campus. In 2018 the Gallery relocated to a new purpose-built arts complex in Southampton's city centre, significantly increasing the space available for exhibitions, events and integrated programming. Learning and engagement are at the heart of the Gallery and underpin all its activities. The innovative education and public programme is

accompanied by special community-focused projects, including activities for all ages and levels of experience. John Hansard Gallery is supported using public funding as a National Portfolio Organisation by Arts Council England.

www.jhg.art

University of Southampton

The University of Southampton is one of the UK's leading teaching and research institutions, with a global reputation for research and scholarship across a wide range of subjects. The University combines academic excellence with an innovative and entrepreneurial approach to research, supporting a culture that engages and challenges students and staff in their pursuit of learning.

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Arts at University of Southampton offers a wealth of inspiring cultural experiences and opportunities, showcasing emerging talent and renowned international artists. From visual arts, music and literature, to theatre and film, there's something for everyone.

The University of Southampton has rich heritage and long-standing commitment to arts and culture as an essential part of university life. The University is proud of its unique relationship with three Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations. The Nuffield Theatre opened at its Highfield Campus in 1964 and was joined by the University's concert hall Turner Sims and John Hansard Gallery in the 1970s. The relocation of the John Hansard Gallery to its new purpose-built home in the heart of the city's Cultural Quarter increases the University of Southampton's presence in that area, close to its Mayflower Halls and administrative offices in Guildhall Square. The opening of Studio 144 symbolises an extraordinary moment for Southampton and the University will be working closely with John Hansard Gallery, City Eye and NST Nuffield Southampton Theatres to deepen public engagement, to share its research and present inspiring and accessible cultural opportunities for all.

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