

REASSEMBLING THE SELF

curated by Susan Aldworth

PRESS RELEASE

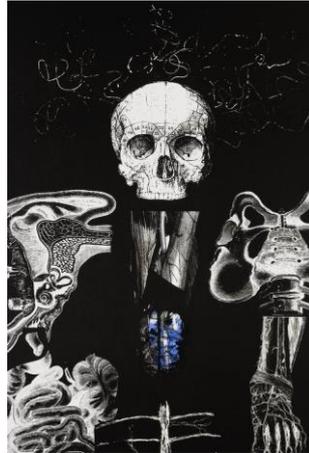
Exhibition : 16 September until 11 October 2014

Private View : 16 September, 6pm - 9pm

GV Art gallery, London, 49 Chiltern Street, Marylebone, London W1U 6LY



Broken
Camille Ormston, 2011



Reassembling the Self 1
Susan Aldworth 2012



The Healer
Kevin Mitchinson, 2012

To think of schizophrenia as a fragmented mind and then to focus on isolated fragments - the altered visual perceptions, heard voices, paranoid delusions - is to miss the whole experience... All of the work [in this exhibition] is at heart about human identity, the sense of self and how it holds itself together.

Professor Anya Hurlbert, Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University

Reassembling the Self is an exhibition centred on a study of the condition of schizophrenia, which weaves together art, science, psychiatry and individual histories in an extraordinary exploration of self, perception and the fragility of human identity.

As artist in residence from 2010 to 2012 at the Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University, Aldworth took schizophrenia as her theme, building on collaborations with neuroscientists, psychiatrists and patients to produce a series of remarkable lithographs that challenge the sense of identity through their dislocated imagery. These are dramatic, powerful works which locate an essential human experience in schizophrenia. Together with her film - based on a seminal text about schizophrenia, Daniel Paul Schreber's *Memoirs of My Nervous Illness* - Aldworth's work also stands in a suggestive dialogue with other works in the exhibition. There are paintings and drawings by Camille Ormston and Kevin Mitchinson, two skilled artists with a schizophrenia diagnosis.

A series of events is being organised during the exhibition to raise awareness, to promote research into new treatments of schizophrenia and to celebrate **World Mental Health Day** on 10 October 2014 which, this year, takes living with schizophrenia as its theme.

There is a full catalogue available.

— ENDS —

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Reassembling the Self was first shown at the Hatton Gallery and Vane in Newcastle in 2012 funded by Newcastle University, Arts Council England and local charities. This London exhibition is sponsored by Autofony Therapeutics together with Newcastle University and the University of Manchester, who are collaborating on a project to explore an exciting new pharmacological approach to schizophrenia treatment which is part-funded by the UK's innovation agency, the Technology Strategy Board.

Schizophrenia remains a major healthcare challenge throughout the world. Patients with the condition have a poor quality of life and prognosis. Antipsychotics are the main treatment but up to 70% of patients do not have their condition adequately controlled by existing therapies. Side effects of current approved drugs include weight gain, diabetes, heart disease, movement related deficits and sexual dysfunction. There is a clear need for more effective drugs with fewer side effects.

Susan Aldworth: Born in 1955, Aldworth studied philosophy at Nottingham University, and printmaking at Sir John Cass, London. She is an experimental printmaker and filmmaker referencing neuroscience and philosophy in her work exploring human identity. Her work is in many collections including the V&A, British Museum and Wellcome Collection library. Significant recent shows include *Susan Aldworth: The Portrait Anatomised*, National Portrait Gallery, *Brains: The mind as matter*, Wellcome Collection, *Mind Maps: Stories from Psychology*, Science Museum and *Images of the Mind*, Dresden and Brno. She is represented by GV Art gallery, London.

Autifony Therapeutics Ltd is an independent UK based biotechnology company formed in 2011 as a spin-out from GSK, which retains equity in the company. The company is focused on the development of high value, novel medicines to treat hearing disorders and serious disorders of the central nervous system, including schizophrenia. Autofony Therapeutics is funded by SV Life Sciences, Imperial Innovations, Pfizer Venture Investments, International Biotechnology Trust PLC and UCL Business. www.autifony.com

Technology Strategy Board is the UK government's innovation agency. Its goal is to accelerate economic growth by stimulating and supporting business-led innovation. Sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy. www.innovateuk.org

GV Art gallery, London fosters meaningful dialogues between contemporary artists and scientists. As developments in art, science and technology are paving the way for new aesthetic sensibilities, GV Art aspires to catalyse the exchange of ideas on the developments and intersections between art and science.

VISITOR INFORMATION

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GALLERY OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 11am – 6pm

Saturdays 11am – 4pm, Admission Free

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