

Press Release

The Watch Man

Venue: Dilston Grove, s.w. corner of Southwark Park

Travel: Jubilee Line to Canada Water

Exhibition: March 14th – April 15th, 2007

Open: Wed – Sun from 11 am – 5 pm

Private View: Sunday 18th March 2007, from 2 – 5 pm.

The first international exhibition of *The Watch Man*, a major new installation by artist **Shona Illingworth** will take place within the atmospheric and powerfully evocative architecture of Dilston Grove, London.

Using video and sound, *The Watch Man* explores the conflict between trauma memory and the need for a coherent 'life story' through the experience of an 80 year old watchmaker, who as a 19 year old experienced one of the most deeply affecting and shocking events of the Second World War.

With successive generations living with the after effects of traumatic experience, this moving and evocative work reveals the personal impact of conflict on an individual over time. It is made in dialogue with neuro-psychologist **Professor Martin A. Conway**, whose internationally recognised expertise on trauma memory, confabulation and the role of memory in the formation of a sense of self has informed the complex structure of this work.

The video lingers on prosaic details of the watchmaker's workshop and living space, gradually encapsulating an enclosed and disconnected world that is set in stark contrast to a dark, disrupting and persistent trauma memory. A complex sound composition will surround the viewer, locating sounds high above their heads and resonating through the charged, reflective surface of a specially constructed floor beneath their feet.

An International solo exhibition of *The Watch Man* will tour to Interaccess, Toronto featuring in the international Images Festival, 2007 and a Limited Edition Artist Book, made in collaboration with Professor Martin A. Conway, will be launched in Autumn 2007.

Shona Illingworth

Shona Illingworth is known for her powerful and evocative video and sound installations which explore the experience of memory and the formation of identity in situations of social tension. She has shown her work extensively in Europe, Canada and the UK. She has received a number of high profile awards including commissions for Channel 4 Television, the Hayward Gallery, London and the Wellcome Trust. She lives and works in London. <www.shonaillingworth.net>

Professor Martin A. Conway

Professor Martin Conway is a neuro-psychologist and one of the foremost international experts in the field of Autobiographical Memory. His work explores the centrality of memory to our sense of self. He currently holds a prestigious ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) Professorial Fellowship at Leeds University where he has established the new Memory Research Group. He has written extensively on Autobiographical Memory.

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Dilston Grove



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