

Susannah Gent: *Unhomely Street*

Unhomely Street, a twenty-minute essay film, premiered at the 64th International Short Film Festival of Oberhausen and has subsequently gained distribution with Kurzfilmtage Internationale, a distribution agency for experimental work whose activities include arranging short films to pair with feature films for cinema distribution and selling curated short film programs. The film was screened as part of the 'No Future' exhibition that ran alongside the *Against the Slow Dissolution of the Future* conference at Goldsmiths College, London, 2017, and has been selected to screen at *Moving Images – Static Spaces: Architectures, Art, Media, Film, Digital Art and Design* conference in Istanbul, April 2018

Unhomely Street explores the representation of mental illness, specifically post-concussive syndrome. The subjective experience is individualistic and although experience can be shared via language, a great deal can be lost in translation. Thought is broadly sensory, but it has an audio-visual quality and as such lends itself to filmic interpretation.

Mental health is a huge contemporary issue, with significant increases in the diagnosis of a range of conditions and increased service use. The representation of mental illness contributes to a growing dialogue to help fight alienation by combating stigma, and offering the wider community a window to individual experiences.

Using filmmaking as research in this manner opens an academic space filled with connections that practically, metaphorically, and philosophically investigate new ways of thinking about mental health, how the world is perceived, and how our interactions shape that world. These ideas are explored in a peer-reviewed article for JAR (Journal of Artistic Research) published November 2017, entitled *Exorcising Unhomely Street: the Representation of Post-Concussive Syndrome*.