

London Production Fund

MAPPING PERCEPTION

Proboscis presents a unique collaboration between award winning filmmaker Andrew Kötting and neurophysiologist Mark Lythgoe, produced/curated by Giles Lane.

At the heart of **Mapping Perception** is Andrew's daughter Eden. She was born at Guy's Hospital, London, in 1988 with a rare genetic disorder – Joubert Syndrome – which causes several neurological complications. Eden acts as both a catalyst and a cipher for a more general investigation into how we 'see' the world and perceive difference.

The collaboration was cemented by a shared desire to bridge different cultural disciplines and forge a new language to question human perception and challenge the membrane that separates the normal and the abnormal. From this entanglement many outcomes have resulted: a film (subtitled 'an experimental documentary describing a scientific love poem'), an installation, a web-site, a book and a CD-ROM.

The project took its initial inspiration from Eden's condition, but it has been the implications of disability on the senses and the exploration of perception itself, that the collaborators' discussions have opened up.

The outcomes blend technology, science and personal enquiry to accentuate a humanistic dialogue between art and science.

Life was breathed into the project when it was short-listed for the 1998 Sciart Scheme run by the Wellcome Trust. But it was in September 1999 that the project really came alive, when the London Production Fund (run by the LFVDA) committed to it.

LPF support was followed in 2000 by



South East Arts; the Sciart Consortium's Production Award; the Film Council, who awarded the project National Lottery Funding; and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation who awarded a special grant to conduct further research in 2001.

'Scientists and artists share an unquenchable curiosity and desire to question the world in which we live,' says Proboscis producer, Giles Lane. 'Their methods, processes and outcomes may be worlds apart but their journeys can intertwine in united voyages of discovery. **Mapping Perception** is just such an experimental entanglement – the sum of four years of collaborative thinking, arguing, discussing, sharing and creating, borne of a shared passion, a common interest – perception.'

'I described to Andrew that the way we perceive the world was through our five senses: taste, touch, hearing, seeing and smelling,' says Mark

Lythgoe. 'I went on to suggest that being human is like being locked in the Castle of our Five Senses.'

'And I retorted that forgetting is the most 'living' thing there is in life, and that knowing is always more or less pretending to know,' adds Andrew Kötting.

The last word goes to Eden Kötting. 'What are we going to do tomorrow?' she says.

Mapping Perception, the film, will premiere at the Brief Encounters Short Film Festival in Bristol. For screening information, visit the festival site at www.brief-encounters.org.uk.

The installation will be shown at the Café Gallery, Southwark Park, London SE16 from 8 October to 3 November and the book and CD-ROM are published on 8 October.

The website can be visited at www.mappingperception.org.uk.

LONDON FILM AND VIDEO NEWS

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