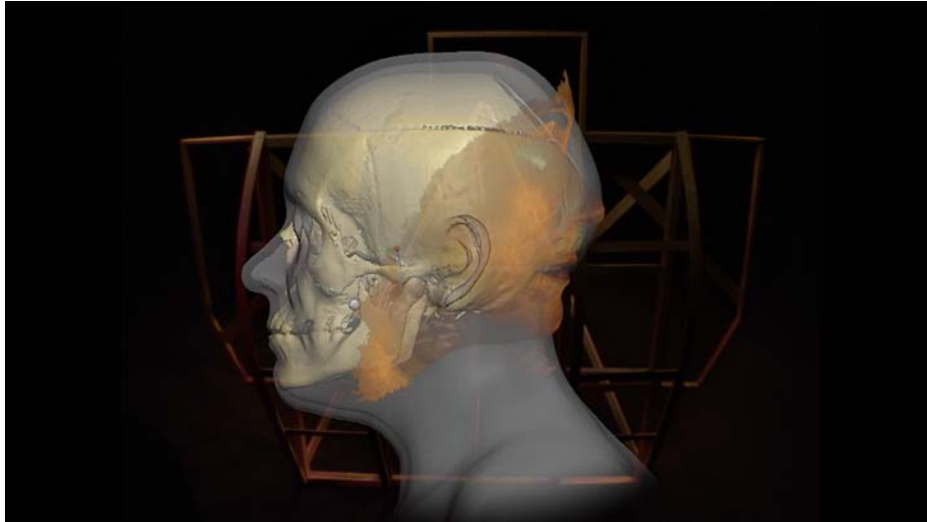




26 September 2016

PRESS RELEASE from Film and Video Umbrella, for immediate release:

Jane & Louise Wilson, *We Put the World Before You*



We Put the World Before You, Jane & Louise Wilson, 2016.
Courtesy of FVU.

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art: 1 October 2016 – 15 January 2017 Further staging at Wolverhampton Art Gallery to follow later in 2017

FVU has commissioned a new moving-image work by Turner Prize-nominated artists Jane & Louise Wilson, in partnership with Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (mima) and Wolverhampton Art Gallery. The film will premiere as part of the Wilsons' solo show at mima, alongside the 2014 FVU commission *Undead Sun*.

We Put the World Before You takes its title from a signature motto of the early film pioneer, Charles Urban. Part scientist-educator, part showman-entertainer, Urban combined a passion for microphotography with a fervent hope that the magnifying potential of cinema would open the eyes of the public to the unseen wonders of nature. The start of the twentieth century had seen unprecedented innovations in optical and imaging technologies – advances that were often shadowed by equally rapid developments in the machinery of war.

Some of the most conspicuous and lasting scars of the First World War were to be found on the faces of returning combatants. A new and horrific spate of injuries (caused by impact of shellfire in the trenches) would mark their victims for life, and generate ambivalent feelings of pity and revulsion in those who saw them. Yet these wounds did, in turn, expedite new forms of treatment, whose successive innovations would eventually give rise to what we now call plastic surgery. The



Wilson's film incorporates sensitively-handled archive footage of some of these disfigured faces, as well as allusions to other significant phenomena of the time, such as the vogue for hypnosis and associated forms of suggestion/projection, sometimes resorted to by mothers, wives or girlfriends of servicemen who were missing at the front.

Guided by a charismatic mesmerist, the film's hypnosis sequences unsettle the usual boundaries of the self and mess with conventional notions of time. The costumes of the female participants hint at period details but, more strongly, their revival in another, much later era (specifically the 1970s). The women's gestures, too, both evoke and disconcert: the repetitive, automatic handiwork of what looks like the manual action of stitching or weaving reborn as the distinctive tactile finger moves of our current digital moment. Punctuated by the apparitional materialisation of computer-generated 'masks' of the artists' faces, the film is delicately threaded by the recurring refrain of a celebrated 1913 composition by Anton Webern.

Notes for editors:

Credit line

We Put the World Before You is commissioned by FVU in partnership with Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art and Wolverhampton Art Gallery. With support from Wellcome Trust and public funding from Arts Council England.

Exhibitions

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art **1 October 2016 – 15 January 2017**

Address: Centre Square, Middlesbrough, TS1 2AZ

Opening times: Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat 10am – 4.30pm, Thu 10am – 7pm, Sun 12pm – 4pm
Closed Monday. Admission: free.

Opening event: Saturday 1 October, 12pm – 4pm

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Staging to follow later in 2017, dates to be confirmed.

Jane & Louise Wilson

Jane & Louise Wilson were born and raised in Newcastle. They have been a working as part of an artistic collaboration for over two decades. They have gained national and international reputation as artists working with photography and the moving image, installation in an expanded form of cinema, and lens based media. In 1999 they were nominated for the Turner Prize for their multi-screen video installation *Gamma*. The Wilson sisters have had held solo exhibitions in the UK and internationally in places such as Kazakhstan, the USA, Canada, Japan and all over continental Europe. They have also exhibited widely in international group shows, including *Carnegie International* (1999),



Korean Biennial (2000), Istanbul Biennial (2001), 'Moving Pictures' at Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao (2003), 'Remind' at Kunsthaus Bregenz (2003), 'Out of Time' at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2006), 'Tempo Suspenso' at CGAC, Santiago de Compostela (2010/11), Sharjah Biennial (2011), 'The Toxic Camera' at The Whitworth, Manchester (2012/13), 'Ruin Lust' at Tate Britain (2014), 'History is Now' at The Hayward Gallery (2015), 'Future Present' at The Schaulager Museum, Basel (2015), SeMA Korean Biennial, Seoul (2016), The Kramlich Collection, USA (2016) and The Getty Museum, USA (2017).

FVU

FVU commissions, curates, produces and presents artists' moving-image works that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, FVU has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced nearly 200 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions.

www.fvu.co.uk

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, part of Teesside University, is moving forward with a civic agenda, aiming to have a social function and to repurpose art as a tool. With this vision, we see ourselves as a 'useful' museum. As a 'useful' organisation, we wish to have an influence on society, taking a leading role in addressing current issues within politics, economics and culture, and contributing to change. Our programmes encompass themes such as housing, migration, in equality, regeneration and healthcare.

visitmima.com

Further information

For further information, or to request images, please contact Anna Billington at FVU
E: anna@fvu.co.uk / T: 0207 407 7755



Press images



Image 1: *We Put the World Before You*, Jane & Louise Wilson, 2016.
Courtesy of FVU.

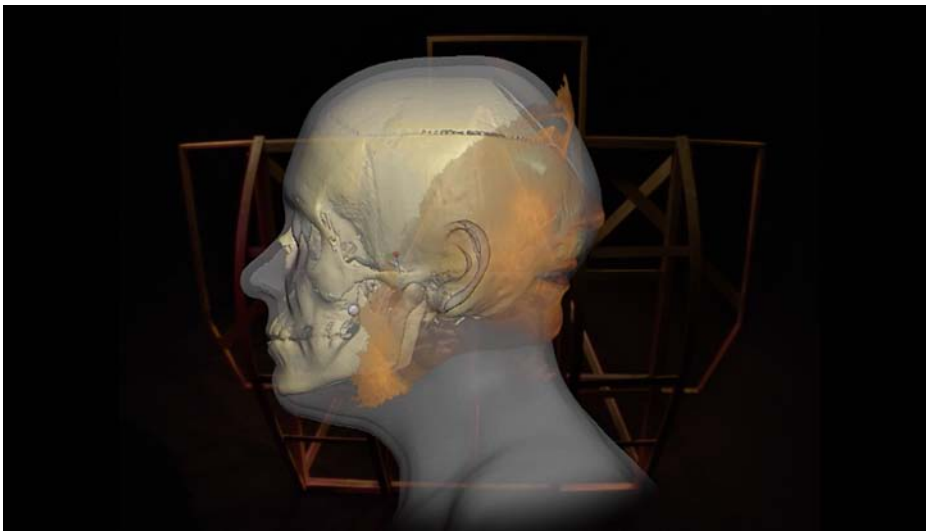


Image 2: *We Put the World Before You*, Jane & Louise Wilson, 2016.
Courtesy of FVU.



Image 3: *We Put the World Before You*, Jane & Louise Wilson, 2016.
Courtesy of FVU.