

Influence of Mars

This short film by Susannah Gent employs filmmaking to reveal hidden instinctual behaviour. The filmmaker asks her ten year old son, Harvey, about his arsenal of weapons, many of which are intended for other use; the handle of a back brush, juggling batons, and a plastic cricket stump. Despite his enthusiasm for maiming and killing Harvey has no idea why we have wars. *Influence of Mars* forms part of a wider body of research concerned with ‘revealing the human’ through filmmaking. In this film innate territorial behaviour is revealed, as well as a focus on how the imagination operates at this age.



Influence of Mars was originally produced as part of the Solar: *Walking at the Speed of Light* project with the Sheffield Hallam universality Media Arts Walking Research group.

The walking arts app that was launched as part of the Catalyst Festival 2017, gained coverage by the regional BBC Calendar News programme and the film has been part of a group show at the Sheffield Institute of Arts gallery in March 2017.

Influence of Mars was screened at the 33. Internationales KurzFilmFestival Hamburg, 2017, and voted eighth out of thirty by the audience in its category. In 2018 it was screened at the British Council supported 64. Internationales Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen in the Children and Youth Section and following this screened it was requested for Drehmomente, a film programme in Dortmund. The 35th Kassel Documentary Film and Video, Germany, 2018, selected *Influence of Mars* from over 3,000 submissions. In a different context, the film was selected to screen at the 9th International Historical and Military Film Festival in Warsaw, 2018. *Influence of Mars* was also screened at the Chapel-Allerton Film Festival, Seven Artspace in August 2018 in a programme of regional work.