

7 Walks

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7 Walks

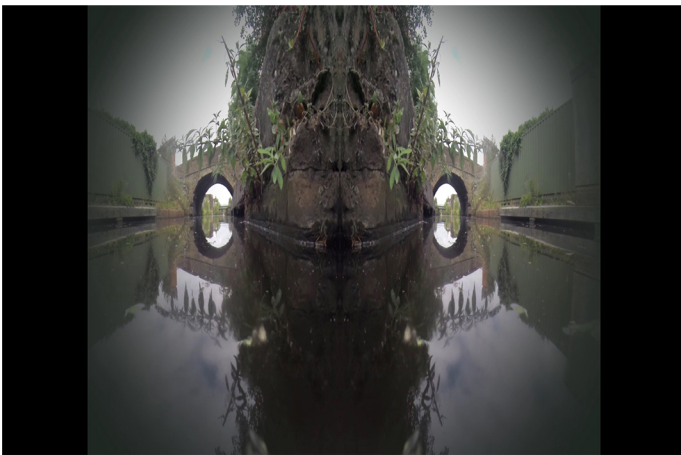
Short film series by Susannah Gent with the SHU Media Arts walking research group

Walking art offers rich potential for exploring new ways of representing an activity, at once common and private. Although the act of walking is primarily seen as a physical one, the mind, according to recent neuroscientific study by Antonio Damasio, may have come about as a result of the “spectacular consequence of the brain’s incessant and dynamic mapping” (2012). The use of maps to navigate landscape, the use of maps of the body within the brain and the mapping of environments and experiences in the form of memory suggest novel approaches to tackling the problem of filming a walk. Susannah Gent has an interest in the filmic representation the subjective experience. 7 Walks, a series of short ‘sketch’ films, explore the combination of interiority, exteriority and locomotion during walks in the countryside of Yorkshire and Derbyshire with the Sheffield Hallam University Media Arts Research Walking Group.

Susannah Gent, a senior lecturer in film production, is studying for a practise based PhD at Sheffield Hallam University, researching the uncanny through interdisciplinary work combining film studies and neuroscience, in an attempt to better understand consciousness and human emotion in relation to the cinematic image. The 7 Walks project has offered an opportunity to make work in a responsive manner, finding the work through the practise as opposed to starting with a script as is the usual process for most films. This has allowed Susannah to explore a method of working which resembles that of Surrealism, a group whose manifesto recognised that thinking first produces images and metaphors ahead of consciousness and language.

DAMASIO, Antonio, *Self Comes to Mind: Constructing the Conscious Brain*, London: Vintage, 2012
BRETON, André, *First Surrealist Manifesto [Le Manifeste du Surréalisme, 1924]* <http://www.tcf.ua.edu/Classes/Jbutler/T340/F98/SurrealistManifesto.htm> (last accessed 17/01/15)

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Belper 2014 1

Belper 2014 2

Canal 2014

Bretton Hall 2014

Chatsworth 2015

Kettlewell 2015