

17 February 2011

New commission: Figment by Hiraki Sawa



Figment, Hiraki Sawa

“A boy closes his eyes for 25 minutes and wakes up with the world gone from behind his thoughts. His language slips and shifts, he tastes orange juice without knowing anymore to describe it as sour, he likes numbers but cannot put names to faces.”

Animate Projects is delighted to present a new work by Hiraki Sawa that explores amnesia and the devastation of severe memory loss through a series of abstract visual sequences. The work combines live action footage with hand drawn and 3D animation to evoke a sense of the fragmentary and disordered recollections of an amnesiac.

The online premiere of Figment coincides with its exhibition at the James Cohan Gallery, New York alongside Hiraki Sawa’s multi-screen video and sound installation, O (2009), originally commissioned by the Queensland Art Gallery for The 6th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art in Brisbane, Australia.

Hiraki Sawa was born in Ishikawa, Japan and now lives and works in London. He studied at the Slade School of Fine Art; and his graduation film, Dwelling, was exhibited at New Contemporaries and EAST International in 2002.

An Animate Projects commission, supported by the James Cohan Gallery.

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Notes to editors:

Figment is online at animateprojects.org/films from 17 February.

About the artist

Hiraki Sawa was born in Ishikawa, Japan. He currently lives and works in London. Since 2002, he has exhibited extensively, including solo exhibitions at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Besançon, Besançon, 2010; Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, 2008; Chisenhale Gallery, London, 2007; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2006. Sawa has also participated in a number of group exhibitions and international art festivals including the Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, 2010; Asian-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, 2009; Yokohama Triennial, Yamashita Pier, Yokohama, 2005; Lyon Biennial, Museum of Contemporary Art, Lyon, 2003.

About Animate Projects

Animate Projects explores animation and its concepts in contemporary art practice. Our programme operates at the intersection of the contemporary visual arts, animation, film and design. We seek to offer artists a particular and supportive space to create new work and we enable a UK and international audience to engage with it via broadcast, gallery, cinema and online, and through critical debate.

Our recent projects include: Primitive, a multi-platform project by Apichatpong Weerasethakul; Slow Action, a new 16mm work by Ben Rivers; and Rough Machine, five new experimental films commissioned for online and for iTunes.

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