

Hiraki Sawa

Lenticular

Sat 5 October 2013 - Sun 5 January 2014

Dundee Contemporary Arts

DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts

152 Nethergate
Dundee DD1 4DY
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www.dca.org.uk

Open daily 11:00 - 18:00
Open late Thu until 20:00
Admission free

Reg Charity No. SC026631

INTRODUCTION

Hiraki Sawa has worked closely with Dundee Contemporary Arts to create an exhibition that features key examples of his videos and animations from the last decade, alongside a newly commissioned film shot at Dundee's much-loved Mills Observatory.

The title of this exhibition, *Lenticular*, is an adjective that means 'lens-shaped'. This title was chosen in response to the artist's interest in clouds and galaxies, which are often described in this way due to their shape. It also refers to a special process used in printing to animate images - a technique Sawa has used in conjunction with DCA Print Studio to produce a new print edition.

Hiraki Sawa was born in 1977 in Ishikawa, Japan and lives and works in London. He studied Sculpture at the Slade School of Fine Art (MFA) and Fine Art at the University of East London (BA). Significant exhibitions of Sawa's work have been presented by Chisenhale Gallery, London; Kresge Art Museum, Michigan; and the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art. Sawa featured in the group exhibition *Behind Closed Doors* at DCA in 2005.

Lenticular has been programmed in partnership with Discovery Film Festival, Scotland's International Film Festival for Young Audiences. Held annually at DCA, the festival brings the best in international film for children and young people, along with an exhibition in the Galleries and a packed programme of workshops and events for all the family. The festival runs from 19 October until 3 November. Find out more at www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk

Lenticular is presented in association with Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery where Sawa will exhibit in January 2014. The exhibition is kindly supported by the DAIWA Anglo-Japanese Foundation. All works are presented courtesy of the artist and James Cohan Gallery, New York and Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo.

WORKS IN THE EXHIBITION

Entrance

Airliner, 2003

Video, colour

3m

Installed at DCA Box Office, *Airliner* is a short film of a hand flicking through a book. This seemingly mundane action becomes, in Hiraki Sawa's imaginative hands, a mesmerising flickbook of planes flying off or across the page. The work is installed to resemble the information monitors at airports, however the imagery is of the planes themselves and not the flight schedule. Much of Sawa's early video and sculptural work stems from a love of watching planes land or take-off. His grandmother used to take him to the airport as a child and he continued this fascination when he moved to London in the mid 1990s.

Gallery 1

Inhere, 2004

Video, colour

2m 40s

Working with the Hayward Gallery and Lambeth Council, the artist engaged with a group of eight year old children to produce drawings which were animated to create magical journeys within an interior world. The video begins with the children's drawings before cutting into the ordinary domestic world, focusing on a washing machine door where we suddenly encounter spaceships. A further view through a kitchen window sees vehicles in flight and finally a rollercoaster and a ferris wheel can be seen in a goldfish bowl. The washing machine door, the kitchen window and the goldfish bowl are all lenses to be looked through, in which Sawa distils his own memories of childhood in tandem with the perspective of these young children.

Unseen Park, 2006

HD video, colour with audio

8m 40s

Sawa developed his ideas from *Inhere* further with *Unseen Park*. On this occasion, the work was made with the assistance of a group of nine year old Taiwanese children who were asked to imagine being transported by make-believe vehicles. The resultant animation features a soundtrack by Dale Berning playing a music box - a small instrument which produces sounds by the use of a set of pins placed on a revolving cylinder that plucks the tuned teeth of a steel comb.

Gallery 2

Elsewhere, 2003

Video, black and white

7m 40s

In the last of his early works in the exhibition, Sawa uses the same domestic interior setting, but this time it is the household objects that sprout legs and walk around, transforming everyday objects into moving, living things. Sawa's smart use of flat screen technology housed within an old fashioned wooden box is typical of his use of ancient and modern means of display. The scale is in sharp contrast with the newer works in the exhibition.

Lenticular, 2013

HD video with audio, colour, mixed media assemblage

6m

For his exhibition at DCA, Hiraki Sawa has created a new film shot at Dundee's Mills Observatory. The work was inspired by and features Robert Law, the self-taught astronomer employed by the Observatory, who shared his vast knowledge of the solar system and the stars beyond with the artist. The star map image is sourced from ESO/S.Brunier (www.eso.org). This newly commissioned work is a loose portrait of the astronomer and the planetarium itself. The work is presented in two channels, one of which is projected into a dome from a projector housed in old wooden cases. The strong sculptural presence in this work references works from the artist's earliest expressions as a sculpture student in the late 1990s. The dome evokes the planetarium and the architecture of the Observatory. For the soundtrack, Sawa has collaborated with Tokyo based musician Fumitake Tamura, better known as Bun. Tamura studied Classical and Contemporary Classical Music Composition at Tokyo University of Art, but his sound draws on hip hop, electronica, dub, jazz and drone. In 2011, he released the LP *Bird* on Ryuichi Sakamoto's Commons label. Tamura founded the label Tamura, and has released three albums. His latest LP is *Minimalism* (2013).

Aurora, 2013

HD video

1m

Sawa benefited from a grant from the Gotoh Memorial Foundation in 2012-13 which enabled the artist to travel across North America. After three flights to reach the Northwest Territories of Canada, Sawa filmed *Aurora* in freezing temperatures in his chosen location in of Yellowknife. The work is mirrored vertically, making the phenomenon of the Northern Lights and shooting stars even more spectacular. *Aurora* has also been realised as a lenticular printed edition in collaboration with DCA Print Studio.

Lineament, 2012

Dual channel HD video with audio, colour
18m 47s

Lineament is a work that raises questions about memory, fiction and reality. Based on the experiences of a friend of the artist who suffered from amnesia, this video features the motif of an unravelling vinyl record which captures the uncertainty of remembered experience. The work is accompanied by a score composed by Dale Berning and cellist Ute Kanngiesser, which has been pressed onto vinyl and is played in the gallery. The act of placing the needle on the record acts as trigger for the films to be projected onto two large screens. Both *Lineament* and *Lenticular* incorporate turning clockwork mechanisms and both are synchronised so that only one plays at a time in the gallery.

Souvenir, 2012

Five channel video, colour and black and white
Continuous loops

In the end gallery, Sawa has selected five movies from the artist's collection of filmic memories from his road trip across America in 2012. Four are presented on specially constructed screens whilst a fifth is projected using a short throw lens.

The artist would like to thank:

DCA

James Cohan Gallery

Shiseido Gallery

Ota Fine Arts

Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery

The Gotoh Memorial Foundation

Robert Law and all of the staff of Mills Observatory Dundee

Dale Berning

Fumitake Tamura

Ayako Fukuuchi

Rei Nakajima

Metod Blejec

Washio Tomoyuki

Tenniscoats

RELATED TALKS & EVENTS

Book your place on 01382 909 900
For more info visit www.dca.org.uk

Meet the Artist

Fri 4 October, 18:30
Gallery 1 & 2

Join artist Hiraki Sawa; Graham Domke, DCA Exhibitions Curator, for an introductory tour of the exhibition. Free, but please book in advance.

Live Music: Tenniscoats

Sat 5 October, 13:00
Gallery 1 & 2

Tenniscoats are a much-loved Japanese indie pop duo comprised of Saya and Takashi Ueno. They have collaborated with a host of musicians and artists over the last decade including The Pastels, Tape and Hiraki Sawa. Free, but please book in advance.

British Sign Language Exhibition Tour

Thu 10 October, 13:00-14:00
Gallery 1 & 2

Join us for an informal BSL signed tour of the exhibition followed by a cup of tea. You can take your time exploring the exhibition, ask questions and share ideas supported by experienced sign language interpreter, Jennifer Ramsay. Free but please email community.education@dca.org.uk to book your place. Refreshments provided.

Once Upon a Rocking-Horse: Hiraki Sawa's Poetics of Space

Thu 24 October, 19:00
Meeting Room

Join Dr Catriona McAra for an illuminating talk focusing on Hiraki Sawa's video installations in relation to her own research into Surrealism and fairy tales. McAra is a writer, curator and Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Edinburgh. Free, drop in.

Senior Citizen Kane Club Exhibition Tour & Blether

Tue 12 November, 10:30-12:00
Gallery 1 & 2

This is a relaxed event for our visitors aged over 60. Join a member of our gallery team for an exhibition tour with background information about the artist and his work followed by a cup of tea and time to chat. Free, but please book in advance.

Creative Skills for 11–16 year olds: Surrealist Scenes

Mon 18 November–Mon 16
December (5 week course)
18:00-20:00, £35.00
Activity Room

Inspired by the work of Hiraki Sawa and 20th Century Surrealist artists this course will introduce techniques such as automatic drawing, collage, transforming found objects and animation. You will find out more about Surrealism and create a series of finished artworks for your portfolio.

(((echo)))

Thu 21 November, 18:30
Gallery 1 & 2

Come along and contribute to this popular event designed to provoke discussions about the current exhibition through a series of presentations by local artists. Free, drop in.

DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL EVENTS

**ImaginaryWorlds:
Animation Inspiration**

Sat 2 November, 11:00-13:00
Activity Room
£3. Suitable for ages 8+

In this workshop budding young artists can create their own imaginary worlds using simple animation and collage techniques combined with inspiration taken from Hiraki Sawa's exhibition and early 20th Century Surrealist works.

Art Cart Adventures

Sun 6, Sun 13 & Sun 27 October,
Sun 17 & Sun 24 November;
13:00–15:00
Sun 20 & Sat 26 October,
Sun 3 November; 14:00–16:00
Free, drop in.

Drop in and explore! Fun for all ages and family groups, Art Cart offers active ways to explore the exhibition via drawing, collage and making your own badge.

Activity Room DIY

Open daily unless being used for a workshop or booked activity
Free, drop in.

DCA Activity Room is a flexible, comfortable and imaginative space designed for younger visitors and family groups to have a go at DIY activities and to make connections with the exhibition and Discovery Film Festival. For this exhibition you will find activities like collage, drawing and getting creative with circles.

JUST ASK

Our friendly and informed Gallery Assistants are always happy to help with any exhibition related queries.

NEXT EXHIBITION

Thomson & Craighead

Sat 18 January - Sun 16 March 2014

RELATED GALLERY SCREENINGS

Ivan's Childhood

Ivanovo detstvo

Tue 19 November, 18:00

Cinema

The debut feature by the great Andrei Tarkovsky is based on a short story by Vladimir Bogomolov. *Ivan's Childhood* is a poetic journey through one boy's war-ravaged youth. Tarkovsky was awarded The Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival for this film and made a great impression on Ingmar Bergman who stated: "My discovery of Tarkovsky's first film was like a miracle. Suddenly, I found myself standing at the door of a room the keys of which had, until then, never been given to me. It was a room I always wanted to enter and where he was moving freely and fully at ease."

Dir. Andrei Tarkovsky

Russia 1962 / 1h32m / Digital / PG

Russian and German with English subtitles

Dumbo

Sun 24 November, 13:00

Cinema

Did you ever see an elephant fly? This much-loved 1941 Disney animated movie follows the adventures of a big-eared baby elephant called Jumbo Jr and his unlikely friend Timothy the mouse. The elephant's ears are a source of ridicule until they become a special advantage. Over 70 years since it was released, *Dumbo* enthralled audiences of all ages with moments such as the surreal 'Pink Elephants on Parade' that seem designed for grown-ups to enjoy. *Dumbo* went on to win the Best Animation Design at the 1947 Cannes Film Festival.

Dirs. Samuel Armstrong, Norman Ferguson

USA 1941 / 1h4m / Digital / U