**Did you spot the gorilla?**

**A solo exhibition of recent work by Sigune Hamann**

**The exhibition runs from 28 January to 10 February 2019 at:**

**The Barn Gallery**

**Kendrew Quad, St John’s College**

**St Giles**

**Oxford OX1 3JP**

**1-5pm daily**

***HELLO! PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I AM ... AND YOU ARE…?***

***Freshers*** was the first project in Sigune Hamann’s residency working with perception and attention in the Department of Experimental Psychology, Oxford University, in collaboration with neuroscientist Professor Kia Nobre and her students. The project continued in workshops with a photo-based record of students meeting, one to one, on their first day at Oxford University, Waseda University, Tokyo and Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London between 2016-8.

The artist splits the image of students and re-assembles them into new interchanging narratives. Hidden in full sight are photographs of three portraits in the collection of St. John’s College.

***Freshers*** exists both as a wall of images and as an artist’s book. Other artist’s books by Hamann give an insight into the way individuals appear in a crowd. Her book ***Fair’s fair*,** 2015-17, explores people looking, meeting and dealing at Frieze Art Fair and we will meet these people again.

The wall of***Freshers*** is in counterpointto a crowd of figure-like cylinders, ***Seeing being seen****,* which viewers can enter, move through and then, by exploring, read the entire image. Hamann’s work skillfully draws us into the work and involves us as participants, while constantly reminding us that the images represent a different context and time.

The vertical scrolls resemble advertising columns (known as *Litfaßsäulen* in Germany, after their inventor) and one stood until quite recently in Oxford Bus Station. The curved form allows us only at a hint of each image. We might simply take a glimpse and pass by or be prompted to investigate; we may recall faces from the book of ***Fair’s fair.*** The images appear again in a small-scale edition of the cylinders where images can be played with, changed and re-arranged.

Opening out in scale is another immersive work is***Filmstrips (20.10.2018)***, a 50 metre panorama which stretches scroll-like across the walls of the gallery, half of its length remaining hidden. The film-strip was taken at the demonstration last autumn for a second referendum. We are placed at the centre, observing, or we can walk along the length to activate, speed up or stop the image.

In much tighter focus, the original slide film for ***Filmstrips (20.10.2018)***, is set in a lightbox along with a new work. ***Did you spot the gorilla?*** is from a popular neuroscience video which shows just how selective our powers of observation and attention can be. Sigune Hamann and Kia Nobre share a curiosity about how our memories and expectations shape what we see. We hope *First Sight* will enable people to experience how perceptions and memories are very different to what we think.

***GOODBYE! NICE TO MEET YOU … SEE YOU AGAIN?***

Gill Hedley, curator

***About the artist***

**www.sigune.co.uk**

Sigune Hamann’s work encompasses photography, video and sound in multi-disciplinary collaborations. She explores the effects of time and perception on the construction of images in interventions and online environments.

Central to her work are panoramic photographic film-strips that she exposes in an analogue photographic camera in one rewinding movement. She uses these panning movements to build installations. In the summer of 2018 she installed three permanent photographic interventions for the new Papworth Hospital at Cambridge University commissioned by Future City including an 80 metre film-strip.

Installations include film-strips at Kunstraum Düsseldorf 2017, Durham Museum and Art Gallery 2013, ISEA, Istanbul Biennale 2011, Kunsthalle Mainz 2008, Gallery of Photography, Dublin 2008, Harris Museum, Preston 2005 and video projects wave (Wellcome Collections 2012); the walking up and down bit (BFI 2009) and Dinnerfor1 (British Council and Transmediale Berlin 2005). She has been awarded residencies at Delfina Studio Trust, Künstlerhaus Schloss Balmoral, the V&A, Tokyo Wonder Site and Oxford University.

Sigune Hamann is a part-time Reader in Art and Media Practice at the University of the Arts London, teaching in Photography at Camberwell College of Art. As curator she devised the symposium *Stillness and Movement* for Tate Modern in 2013 and *The Changing Perception of Images* for the Wellcome Trust 2013-2015. Online projects include:

[www.nothingbutthetruth.org.uk](http://www.nothingbutthetruth.org.uk)

[www.walkaloneneverwalkalone.net](http://www.walkaloneneverwalkalone.net)

www.film-strips.net

[www.sharedlanguage](http://www.sharedlanguage).co.uk