

PRESS RELEASE

Susan MacWilliam

REMOTE VIEWING

Edited by Karen Downey

Authors: Ciaran Carson, Brian Dillon, Martha Langford, Slavka Sverakova and Marina Warner

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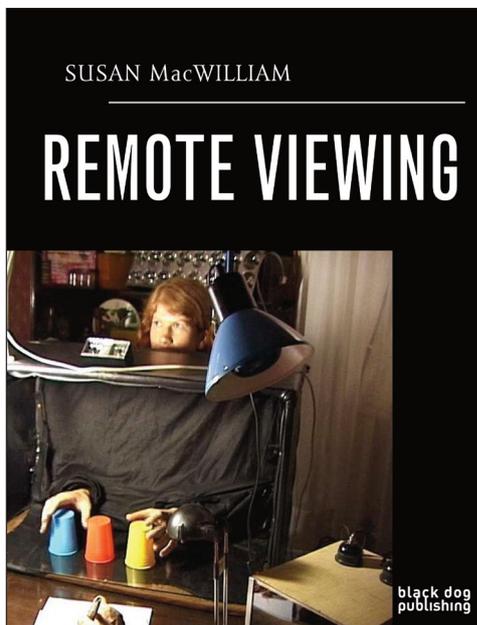
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Remote Viewing is the first significant published volume of work by Susan MacWilliam, an artist who has spent over ten years exploring cases of paranormal activity. The scope of her work is wide, encompassing research into psychic mediums, x-ray vision, optograms and dermo-optical perception. Through participation in experiments, detailed exploration of archives and interviews with leading researchers and families of the subjects, MacWilliam has developed an expansive body of video and installation work, which mediates between the worlds of art and psychical research.

Remote Viewing features three significant works by MacWilliam which will be exhibited as Northern Ireland's presentation at the fifty-third Venice Biennale, the world's most prestigious visual arts showcase event. A major new work entitled *F-L-A-M-M-A-R-I-O-N*, 2009, draws from the TG Hamilton Spirit Photograph Archive in Winnipeg and features Belfast writer Ciaran Carson and Atlanta based poltergeist investigator Dr William Roll. *Eileen*, 2008, a three-channel video piece conjures the private and social worlds of Eileen J Garrett, the Irish medium and founder of the Parapsychology Foundation in New York. The third work, *Dermo Optics*, 2006, presents an account of MacWilliam's visit to the Dermo Optical Laboratory of Dr Yvonne Duplessis in Paris, where she participated in experiments testing 'fingertip vision' (or eyeless sight).

These works are presented in the context of a series of commissioned and selected texts, archival material, video stills and photographs from earlier related works.

Ciaran Carson is a writer and Professor of Poetry at Queen's University, Belfast.

Brian Dillon is a writer and critic. He is UK Editor of *Cabinet* magazine and a Research Fellow at the University of Kent.

Karen Downey is the curator for Northern Ireland's presentation at the 53rd Venice Biennale of Art

Martha Langford is a writer and curator. She is an Associate Professor and Concordia University Research Chair in Art History at Concordia University in Montreal.

Slavka Sverakova is an arts writer based in Northern Ireland.

Marina Warner is a writer and Professor in the Department of Literature, Film and Theatre Studies at the University of Essex.