

**ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION INVITES:
HELEN KNOWLES
THE TRIAL OF SUPERDEBTHUNTERBOT
19 JANUARY–26 FEBRUARY 2017**

Exhibition Preview

Tuesday 17 January 6-9pm



Installation view of *The Trial of Superdebthunterbot*, 2016 Goldsmiths MFA Degree show
45 minutes HD Video / Birch ply and leatherette jury bench

Can an algorithm be held culpable for its actions in a court of law? In her ongoing project *The Trial of Superdebthunterbot* Helen Knowles explores questions of ethics and accountability in relation to the increasing, and often unseen, computer automation of our lives.

The piece imagines a speculative scenario not too far removed from current practices in technology and finance. A debt collecting company buys up student loans and uses big data to ensure fewer loan defaulters by targeting individuals with job adverts posted to their social media pages. A chain of events leads to deaths in medical trials. What might the legal consequences be?

At the centre of Knowles's installation is a 45 minute film shot at Southwark Crown Court. Initially developed as a performance piece in 2015, Knowles collaborated with lawyers Oana Labontu Radu and Laurie Elks to develop and present prosecution and defense speeches. The Superdebthunterbot algorithm was a tangible defendant tried in the courtroom, housed in a transparent computer unit built by artist Daniel Dressel. TV actor Mark Frost (*Poldark*, *Silent Witness*) played the role of the judge, and the jury was made up of volunteers. The film shows this jury's real-time and unscripted response to the case presented, through to their deliberations and delivery of the verdict on the guilt of the algorithm.

In this exhibition the film will be screened alongside a new series of framed pastel drawings on paper. Knowles, in collaboration with artist Liza Brett, produced these courtroom sketches, familiar in style to those used in news media reports, as additional documentation of the performance, working from her video footage, including that from drone cameras.

Artist's presentation event: Sunday 26 February, 3pm

Over recent months Knowles has been presenting her work in law schools and at conferences to generate a debate about the prosecution of non-human entities. This research will culminate in a live event at Zabłudowicz Collection which brings together a new 'jury' to debate these findings.

Zabłudowicz Collection Invites is a programme of solo presentations by UK-based artists who do not currently have representation by a UK commercial gallery.

Helen Knowles (b.1975) is an artist and curator of Birth Rites Collection. She studied at Glasgow School of Art and Goldsmiths University for her MFA and lives and works in Manchester and London. Recent exhibitions include; *Gender Generation*, Dyson Gallery, RCA (2016), *Between the Lines*, GRAD, (2016), *COLLABORATE!* Oriol Sycharth Galley Wrexham, (2015), *The Withdrawing Room*, Folkstone, (2014), Mokuhanga, Tokyo (2014), *Private View: Public Birth*, GV Art London (2013), Women's Art Library, Kingsway Corridor Programme, Goldsmiths University, London (2013); *Life is Beautiful*, Galerie Deadfly, Berlin (2012); *Digital Romantics*, Dean Clough Gallery (2012) and *Walls are Talking*, Whitworth Art Gallery (2010). She recently carried out a residency in Moscow/Vishny Volochok with the Moscow Institute of Contemporary Art. Knowles has carried out other residencies at Santa Fe Arts Institute (2013), Gatley Primary (2010), UCLAN (2002) and Jodrell Bank Science Centre and Arboretum (1999-2001). She has received awards from Arts Council England, The Amateurs Trust and winner of The Great Art Prize, Neo Art Prize (2012). Her work is held in public and private collections including, The Joan Flasch Artist Book Collection, Winchester Special Collections, The National Art Library, RCA and GSA Special Collections, The Whitworth Art Gallery, Tate Library and Archive, Museum of Motherhood, New York and Birth Rites Collection. Currently she one of seven artists on the Future Everything FAULT LINES programme.

This exhibition has been kindly supported by Fast Future Publishing and Fast Future Research.



NOTES FOR EDITORS ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION

Zabłudowicz Collection is a philanthropic organisation including a growing collection of contemporary art and a programme of international exhibitions, events and artists' residencies. Founded in 1994, the Collection is dedicated to fostering new audiences and a sustainable environment for contemporary art, offering a variety of opportunities and support for artists and art organisations. All of its activities are privately funded and free for the public to access. The collection contains over 3000 works of art by more than 600 artists, spanning 40 years of art production. Its focus is on emerging art from the late 20th century to the present day and it is in constant development. The Collection has been directed since 2006 by Elizabeth Neilson. In 2007 the Collection opened its main exhibition space in London, in a 19th Century former Methodist Chapel, where it has worked with artists, curators and the collection to produce exhibitions and events examining contemporary art practice in a public forum. The Collection now also runs an international programme of exhibitions, events, residencies and commissions across four permanent venues in the UK, USA and Finland. The programme is directed by Maitreyi Maheshwari.

For more information, images or to arrange an interview please contact:

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VISITOR INFORMATION

Admission: FREE

Thursday–Sunday, 12–6pm or by appointment

The Café serves tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes during gallery opening hours.

The Library and meeting room can be booked for meetings, research, and to view film and video works in the Collection.

The Shop sells limited edition artworks, books and specially selected products.

All books and editions are available online at: shop.zabludowiczcollection.com

Zabludowicz Collection is a not for profit organisation and 50% of the proceeds from editions goes directly to the artist, remaining funds support the future of the programme.

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Chalk Farm or Kentish Town West

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