

PRESS RELEASE

# JILLIAN MAYER

24 OCTOBER — 24 NOVEMBER 2018

OPENING RECEPTION

TUESDAY, 23 OCTOBER, 6 — 8PM

**PRESS PREVIEW IN PRESENCE OF THE ARTIST: TUESDAY, 23 OCTOBER, 5 PM**

Annka Kultys Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of recent videos by the American artist Jillian Mayer. This will mark the artist's first solo presentation in London. In *Impressions*, Mayer addresses the impact of technology on identity and broader humanity, something she attributes to her interest in the human experience.

The exhibition features six videos presented on various devices, such as projectors, TVs and iPads.

Two short films, *Arrows* (2017) and *Measurements* (2017), shown on loop on the main TV monitor, are works belonging to Mayer's "Impressions" series (from which the title of the current exhibition is drawn). Both films feature Mayer in character explaining the value in charting one's own biometrics beyond the everyday metrics of weight and height and were born out of Mayer's research into current technology, including, for example, smile measuring software. The films emphasise the importance of facial geography and expressions. Mimicking the appropriative gestures of advertising and prosumer media, Mayer's portrayals explore what can be learnt from a face and, through mapping the intersection of biometrics and the politics of pattern recognition, Mayer poignantly probes what it means for the human body to be both calculable and algorithmically legible.

On one of the show's iPads, the film *In the Make-up Tutorial: How to Hide from Cameras* (2013) plays. Here Mayer presents a YouTube-style 'how to' video in the form of a makeup tutorial that teaches viewers how they can hide from cameras and facial recognition algorithms. While toying with the formats of the ubiquitous cosmetic-focused 'smoky eyes' or 'latest lipstick' style presentations, Mayer parodies conventional cosmetics marketing as she explores different camouflage techniques, such as how to draw bold lines on her face to disguise the eyes and mouth, which she promises will let the viewer walk around the city undetected by surveillance

**ANNKA KULTYS GALLERY**

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*#PostModem* (2013) is a satirical sci-fi pop-musical based on the theories of Ray Kurzweil and other futurists comprised of ten short videos that, when woven together, present a fractured narrative of two Miami girls dealing with the potential impact of the technological singularity. The work appears via projector on a wall in the gallery. In *#PostModem*, the six and seven year-olds note in a bleak, or possibly coldly realistic way, their visions of the future: “one day I gonna die”; “my energy will disperse across the universe”; “everyone I know will be gone” and “everything I do in my life will be forgotten.”

The final video, *You'll be OK* (2014), presented on one of the large TV monitors, is a 4 minute looping animation of a reassuring text written in the sky, presented to appear as if a skywriting plane had replicated clouds and man-made technologies could mimic nature. Set to time-lapsed clouds, the message fades slowly away over several minutes before starting back over as a continuous pre-programmed loop of comfort.

The works featured in *Impressions* all share Mayer's intuitive ability to draw from contemporary technology and digital culture to produce multi-layered narratives, often featuring Mayer herself as the conduit for narrative development.

**Jillian Mayer** is an artist and filmmaker living in Miami, Florida. Through video, sculptures, online experiences, photography, performances and installations, she explores how technology affects our lives, bodies and identities. Mayer investigates the points of tension between our online and physical worlds and makes work that attempts to inhabit the increasingly porous boundary between the two.

While gaining international attention with various projects spanning various media and performances, her work has been shown at galleries and museums internationally, including MoMA, MoCA:NoMi, BAM, Bass Museum, MoMa PS1, the Contemporary Museum of Montreal, as well as film festivals such as Sundance, SXSW and the New York Film Festival. Her video work has been selected for the Guggenheim's *Youtube Play: A Biennial of Creative Video* and exhibited at Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy; Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain; and Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin, Germany.

**For all press inquiries, please contact Annka**  
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**Opening Hours:** Wednesday through Saturday, 12 – 6pm

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