

Goldsmiths

and

The Royal College of Art

Press Release

Wednesday 16th October, 2004

pages of madness

A digital work of insidious beauty, sensuality, and contemplation

A re-conception of concrete poetry and *ciné-roman* in multi-media

**A disturbing artistic exploration of racism's engendering of mental
illness**

**One hundred million years to view this in entirety
or fifteen seconds in snapshot**

pages of madness, a new digital work for public viewing: theatrical, gallery or online . You are invited to see it at: <http://www.pagesofmadness.com>. *pages of madness* will be

- spotlighted in October 2004, by Turbulence the major space of digital art and discourse, at www.turbulence.org
- shown at Rampton High Security Hospital to both staff and patients in November 2004
- presented at the Disability Arts Film Festival, at the National Film Theatre London, December 2004
- exhibited at Generative Arts 04, Milan December 2004

The exhibition focuses on mental illness in ethnic minorities following medical research which suggests that, due to social factors such as systematic racism, black people in the UK are significantly more likely than white people to suffer from mental illnesses such as schizophrenia.

Drawing on medical evidence and the artists' own experiences of mental health issues, the on-line exhibition provides an experimental response to this phenomenon, taking the psyche of a mentally ill person using interplays of text, sound, photographic and video image. It includes reconceptions of concrete poetry and the *ciné-roman*, investigations in narrative space and construction, and explorations of the contemporary notions of cyberspace and Asian ideas of void.

Exhibited in an on-line gallery, the work primarily uses only two colours: black and white. Spare poems engage with images; both fade in and out in a random sequence so a permutation is never repeated. The soundtrack emphasises constancy rather than variation.

Notes to editors:

- o *pages of madness* is part of an ongoing collaboration with *Diverse Minds* magazine, which will see a future web exhibition on the theme of mental illness and asylum seekers.
- o Project consultant: Dr Richard Parkin, Barnet Psychiatric Unit, Barnet Hospital, London
- o *pages of madness* has received a Millennium Award from the Peabody Trust.

Press enquiries: Janet Aikman, Goldsmiths Communications and Publicity, tel 020 7919 7909,

ext-comms@gold.ac.uk