

Press Release: 15 September 2014

Undead Sun **Jane & Louise Wilson**

www.fvu.co.uk/projects/undeadsun #UndeadSun

Film and Video Umbrella have commissioned acclaimed artists Jane & Louise Wilson to create a new work entitled *Undead Sun*, which will be shown at the Imperial War Museum from 15 October 2014 – 11 January 2015.

Jane and Louise Wilson's *Undead Sun* is a large-scale video installation that looks back at the seismic impact of the First World War and considers how so many of the products of that conflict continue to shape our contemporary experience. At its heart is a now-familiar pattern of military action, new and hard-learned in the First World War – in which control of the airspace assumes as much strategic importance as the campaign on the ground. This desire for panoramic overview, to rise beyond the deadlock of the trenches, brings with it its own rapid advances (in camera optics and other technological innovations) but also its counter-measures, as armies seek to hide their movements and positions from this ever-present eye-in-the-sky. Alluding to the unceasing threat of exposure from above, *Undead Sun* highlights these earthbound, subterranean arts of concealment and camouflage, as well as the unremarked, invisible contribution made by women to this facet of the war.

Inspired by archive photographs and artefacts, and by diary entries and personal testimonies, the piece reflects on the visceral, elemental forces that the war unleashed. Not only did it effect a change of view *from* the air, it provoked a change in view *of* the air – instilled by the terror of gas attacks, the thunder of heavy artillery or the disorientating turbulence and violence of speed. Sequences filmed against the looming backdrop of a giant wind tunnel evoke these larger-than-life forces at work, while a series of staged cameos, interspersed throughout the footage, offers glimpses of individual, human-scale dramas. – as well as intimations of some of the demons haunting the society of the time.

Premiered at the Imperial War Museum in London, *Undead Sun* is presented in a specially constructed architectural setting, in which the viewer's lines of sight are directed, and partially obstructed, by veils of gauze. This is the first iteration of an unfolding project, commissioned in partnership by Film and Video Umbrella, Imperial War Museum, MIMA, Middlesbrough and Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

Notes to editors:

Exhibition dates:

Imperial War Museum, London: Wednesday 15 October 2014 – Sunday 11 January 2015

Project Credit

Commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella, for IWM (Imperial War Museums), in partnership with MIMA, Middlesbrough and Wolverhampton Art Gallery. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England. With special thanks to Artliner.

Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates, produces and presents film, video and other moving-image works by artists that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, Film and Video Umbrella has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced over 100 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions.

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IWM Contemporary is a programme of exhibitions and events by leading artists and photographers whose work is a response to war and conflict. Upcoming exhibitions include a display by Hew Locke which will feature new beaded wall drawings and work reflecting on shipping and war at sea opening 19 February 2015. A major artist intervention also by Hew Locke takes place on board HMS Belfast during summer 2015.

IWM London - IWM's flagship branch - tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war through the depth, breadth and impact of our Galleries, displays and events. Visit our brand new First World War Galleries featuring over 1,300 objects from IWM's collections, explore what life was like at home during the Second World War in A Family in Wartime; delve into the world of espionage in Secret War; visit our award-winning Holocaust Exhibition; discover stories of bravery in The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes; see work by some of Britain's most significant 20th Century artists in our art galleries or take in our latest major temporary exhibitions. Our family learning sessions and events encourage debate and challenge people's perceptions of war.

Open daily from 10am – 6pm (except 24 - 26 December)

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