

David Cotterrell: Killer Eyes

Collaborators: Pia Watson

Date: 27th July 2024

Materials:

Projectiondesign Data Projectors, Bose powered speakers, custom screens, MacMini, Qlab software

A two channel video installation exploring failure of communication through close observation of involuntary facial responses.

When communication breaks down and triggers are more common than kindness, words begin to fail. The conventions of conversation become traps for repetitive recriminations and looping accusations.

The intake of breath no longer simply facilitates language. It now reveals the break between thoughts and sounds. The rhythm of breath is unnoticed until it is strained. It remains discounted until we realise that it reveals stress.

Small involuntary tells remain as to the genuine moments of empathy, compassion and connection that are obscured by rhetoric. Physical cues offer guidance to the rage that is suppressed beneath measured argument.

The mouth is the deliverer of ideas, but the eyes are what we seek to watch. At some point we can no longer bear to look. Scared to witness, genuine disdain, hubris or anger, we may no longer have the courage to see whether they still reveal love.



Killer Eyes installed at the Farm & Distillery Space for Contemporary Art, Berlin Credit: © David Cotterrell (2024)