

Better Military Modelling



A Short Experimental Animation Film by Jill Kennedy

PRESS KIT

I N T E R N A T I O N A L S A L E S

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N E W Z E A L A N D F I L M

PRODUCTION NOTES

Director/Animator/Producer:	Jill Kennedy
Screening Format:	HDCam/Digital Beta
Screen Ratio:	4X3
Length:	6mins54secs
Genre:	Experimental Animation
Date of Completion:	October 2008
Country of Production:	New Zealand
Responsible for Sales:	Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film Commission, juliette@nzfilm.co.nz +64 4 382 7686 +64 21 526 452

BRIEF SYNOPSIS

Set in a shifting and illusory aquarium, Better Military Modelling re-imagines childhood knowledge and games through a playful pastiche of images, movement and sound.

Crudely hand-cut images of red coat soldiers navigate a battlefield submerged in an aquarium; fish and houses collide amid shimmering landscapes to take the viewer on a surreal, dreamlike journey through alternating dimensions.

SYNOPSIS

Better Military Modelling is the second short film in the New Educational Series, an animated series intricately constructed from images sourced from out-dated instruction and education manuals of the 60's and 70's. Set in a shifting and illusory aquarium, Better Military Modelling re-imagines childhood knowledge through a playful pastiche of images, movement and sound. Crudely hand-cut images of soldiers, fish and houses collide amid shimmering landscapes to create an atmosphere of uncertainty and energy. Reminiscent of a submerged toy battlefield, the hand-drawn images flicker in and out of focus, moving in and through the space to take the viewer on a surreal, dreamlike journey through alternating dimensions. The soundtrack designed for Better Military Modelling immerses the listener in an experimental soundscape, mirroring the nostalgic and otherworldly setting of the animation. In creating a fantastical environment informed by a wealth of detail, Better Military Modelling is an ambiguous and engaging film where the audience is called to draw upon their own personal store of memories and associations to reconstruct an imagined past.

DIRECTOR / ANIMATOR / PRODUCER - Jill Kennedy

Jill Kennedy was born 1981 in Glasgow, Scotland. In 1982 her family moved to Auckland, New Zealand. She has been living in Auckland where she graduated from a Graduate Diploma in Design in 2006. Prior to this Jill completed a Bachelor Of Design majoring in Painting in 2002. During her studies in 2006 Jill produced her first short film *Neuro-Economy*, an experimental animation to an audio recording found on a telephone answering machine.

Jill has exhibited work at Public Galleries, Institution Galleries, Dealer Galleries and Artist Run Spaces in New Zealand and America. Jill's recent animation work has screened at International Film Festivals around the world, including Edinburgh International Film Festival and the Worldwide Short Film Festival, Toronto.

In 2007 Jill began collaborating with New Zealand painter Mark Braunias, producing animations of his drawings for exhibition.

Through continuing experimentation with animation, Jill developed the concept for *New Educational Series*. In 2007 Jill completed her second Film '*New Educational Series - Canaries In Colour*', a pastiche of found graphic material nostalgic for AV learning programs of the 1970's. '*New Educational Series - Canaries In Colour*' exhibited in the December Showcase 2007 at Lumen Eclipse in Harvard Square, Massachusetts.

Jill has since completed the 2nd film in the New Educational Series. "*New Educational Series - Better Military Modelling* follows the story of red-coat Soldiers navigating a battlefield submerged in an aquarium." ² In May 2008 Jill was awarded a Screen Innovations Production Grant to complete the 3rd and final film of the New Educational Series for March 2009.

The soundtracks for the New Educational Series of films and the Braunias collaborations were composed and produced by time Based media artist John Payne.

Jill will continue collaborative work with Mark Braunias to produce animations for exhibition at The Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui as part of a Tylee Cottage Residency exhibition November 2008.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Jill Kennedy, an artist trained in painting and animation, has had her work featured in several international screenings and film festivals. Often sourcing imagery cut and pasted from second-hand books, the resulting video animations provide a rich visual pastiche of diagrams and illustrations set to music specifically composed for the work. The images hearken back to forgotten Knowledge, private memories and re-examine a trove of yesterday's conventional truths.

The **New Educational Series** is a specific re-animation of outmoded instructional and educational materials. Objective pictorial information is collaged into fantastical environments where the old-school aesthetic is reinvigorated with stop-motion techniques and sweeping movements of the camera.

Canaries In Colour, the first in the trilogy, presents a journey of spinning birds, dancing Scotsmen, and neon spirograph drawings. Progressing without any predictable storyline or structure, images fade dreamily into the next. Various species of canaries intermittently appear with their scientific names captioned beneath heads. The soundtrack, created in collaboration with time based media artist John Payne, sets the ambiance of each sequence, subtly painting a swathe of moods throughout the piece.

Next in the series, **Better Military Modelling**, follows the story of red-coat soldiers navigating a battlefield submerged in an aquarium. Like Canaries, a school of jeweled fish flicker in and out of view, their correctly labelled names appearing briefly on the screen, prompting a subliminal biology lesson. Each scene swells with unexpected conflicts and turn of events, leading the viewer further into Kennedy's world. The wealth of detail in her work allows the animations to be fresh upon several repeat viewings.

FILMOGRAPHY

New Educational Series - Better military Modelling, experimental animation 6:54, 2008

Pop Party, collaborative animation, 4:34, 2008

Untitled, collaborative animation, collection of short films, 2007

New Educational Series - Canaries In Colour, experimental animation, 3:15, 2007

Neuro Economy, experimental animation, 5:05, 2006

CREDIT LIST

CREW

Director/Animator/Producer
Sound

Jill Kennedy
John Payne