

PDF Transcript

for Video Intro talk by curator Hanna Cormick

for Resemblance by Claire Cunningham

Image Description: In sombre colours. A close up of Claire's face. Claire has blond hair and wears a pale coloured headscarf. Holding the grey circle of a crutch's forearm cuff to one eye, she looks through it directly into the barrel of the camera, as if looking through a telescopic lense.

Introduction for Resemblance by Claire Cunningham.

A blurb reads: "Assembling a crutch as a soldier assembles a gun, Claire Cunningham enacts a ritual that mirrors the act of creating a weapon of destruction, while actually creating an object of support."

Originally commissioned in 2014 as part of 14 to 18 NOW, an arts programme to commemorate the centenary of World War One, this work has been described as: "[inviting] us to consider both the constructive and destructive potential of the innovative tools we have invented. Eerie and potent, the production design evokes contemporary conflict zones while suggesting conflicts yet to be fought."

Nearly a decade later, these words prove prescient as we bear witness to the ongoing war in the Ukraine, and Claire's film feels as if it echoes our present world climate. It also hints at the inextricable links between Disability and war — that war is one of the highest causes of acquired Disability, and that Disabled people are amongst the most at-risk during conflicts and humanitarian crises.

Though this work dips into tense themes, it carries a beauty and tranquility that allows for a deep and considered connection.

Perhaps, we may question: what supports are we building for our communities through these and future conflicts? Or what peace can we be building, with the same financial support, technical innovation and political drive that we have given to the pursuit of war?