

Sally Howkins

Law, Probability and Risk



Sally Howkins Law, Probability and Risk (2010)
Two digital photo frames - showing randomized black & white stills

10th February – 25th March 2011

Off The Hook Clothing, 151- 152 Fore Street, Exeter, Devon EX4 3AN
Presented by Found Space in association with Off The Hook Clothing.

Fingerprint probability match:

$$LR = \frac{p(E|S, I)}{p(E|S, \bar{I})}$$

on the surface, an intelligible lie; underneath, the unintelligible truth.

Dealing with notions of probability and crime detection, this artwork also looks at the stories or narratives left behind when we touch a surface.

The chances of any two individuals sharing the same fingerprints are roughly one in sixty four billion. For this reason, it's believed that an unexplained match found at a crime scene is strong evidence of guilt. However, some people have been wrongly convicted on such evidence and it is increasingly being challenged in court.

This work celebrates the unique identity of individual human beings while questioning our reliance on probability in making important decisions about people's lives.

It was originally made for 'Rearranging Formulae', an exhibition of artists' responses to scientific texts at the O3 Gallery, Oxford, which coincided with the Year of Science.

Sally Howkins is an artist based in Oxfordshire, she studied at Northumbria University and is currently working as a Creative Partner involved in community and education projects.