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# SOUL DUST

## NICHOLAS HUMPHREY

### WITH SUSAN ALDWORTH

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Book Launch and Private View, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011, 6pm – 9pm  
GV Art Gallery, 49 Chiltern Street, London, W1U 6LY  
Exhibition continues, 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011, 11am – 6pm

*How is consciousness possible? What biological purpose does it serve? Why do we value it so highly?*

Psychologist Nicholas Humphrey's new book *Soul Dust* presents a startling new theory. Consciousness, he argues, is nothing less than a magical-mystery show that we stage for ourselves inside our own heads. This self-made show lights up the world for us and makes us feel special and transcendent. Thus consciousness paves the way for spirituality, and allows us, as human beings, to reap the rewards, and anxieties, of living in what Humphrey calls the 'soul niche.'

Susan Aldworth's paintings of the human brain, the crucible of mind and soul, have captured the imagination of neuroscientists and philosophers as much as poets. In 2010 Aldworth was commissioned to provide an image for the cover of *Soul Dust*. She went on to produce a series of art works inspired by the book.

The three day exhibition at GV Art will be a unique opportunity to see what happens when exciting new ideas in science are interpreted by an artist.

*'Nicholas Humphrey is unique in his combination of audacity and circumspection, an intellectual tightrope walker.'* — Daniel C. Dennett

*'Bringing together the subjective with the objective, Aldworth's prints belong to a distinguished tradition in which art is the partner of science.'* — Gill Saunders, curator, V&A, London

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Nicholas Humphrey is a theoretical psychologist, based in Cambridge, internationally known for his work on the evolution of human intelligence and consciousness. His interests are wide ranging. He studied mountain gorillas with Dian Fossey in Rwanda, he was the first to demonstrate the existence of 'blindsight' after brain damage in monkeys, he proposed the celebrated theory of the 'social function of intellect', and he is the only scientist to edit the literary journal *Granta*. His books include *Consciousness Regained*, *The Inner Eye*, *A History of the Mind*, *Leaps of Faith*, *The Mind Made Flesh* and most recently *Seeing Red*.

London-based artist Susan Aldworth, a philosophy graduate from Nottingham University, has exhibited extensively during the last 10 years including *Landscapes of the Mind*, Williams College Museum of Art, USA (2010), *Northern Print Biennale*, Hatton Gallery, Newcastle (2009) *Mapping the Imagination*, V&A, London (2008) and *Scribing the Soul*, Transition Gallery, London (2008). Recent commissions include the new cardio-vascular unit at the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust (2010) and the epilepsy department at St Thomas' Hospital, London (2010). She has held residencies at the Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University (2010), the Department of Neurophysiology, St Thomas' Hospital, London (2009), Gordon Museum, King's College, London (2007) and received awards from Arts Council (2009) Newcastle University (Beacon Award 2009) and the Wellcome Trust (2007).

GV Art is a contemporary art gallery which aims to acknowledge the diverse enquiries into present day creative practices. The gallery produces exhibitions and events that are a platform for a wider dialogue, focusing on the inter-relationship between man and his environment, and the technical and creative. How we witness change and investigate or question fresh approaches to understanding the human condition is at the very core of GV Art's explorations.

For more information contact Nicholas Humphrey, c/o Lucy Ramsey,  
Lucy.Ramsey@quercusbooks.co.uk, 0207 291 7213, or  
Susan Aldworth, saldworth.t21@btinternet.com, 07732 987 786

### VISITOR INFORMATION

GV Art, 49 Chiltern Street  
London W1U 6LY nearest tube Baker Street  
Tel: 020 8408 9800  
Email: info@gvart.co.uk

### GALLERY OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 11am – 6pm,  
Saturdays 11am – 4pm or by appointment.  
Admission Free

Image (previous page): *Soul Dust*, Susan Aldworth, 2010, acrylic inks, 38 x 27 cm



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