

# **BECOMING**      **Genevieve Rudd 2026**

Trigger warning: shows some hospital settings and equipment, and scans shown visually & as sound.

This new moving image animation artwork by Genevieve Rudd has been informed by her Acquired Brain Injury, neurosurgery and long hospitalisation experiences as a rebirth of her arts practice filled with life following ABI (Acquired Brain Injury).

**BECOMING** is an acknowledgement that whilst brain injury disability is imbued with endings, there is also potential and possibility for new evolving opportunities and living. Grief and evolution are entwined together; using the fragments of the old life to build a new one.

The overall feel of the film is disorientating and multi-layered, showing grappling with an old and new life layered amongst the litter of clinical experience.

The work is threaded with deep personal symbolism, including these, listed as a fatigue/energy-management strategy & log of the work, to aid presentation...

### **Glossary** of symbolism in the film:

- **Medical blue gloves** performing actions across the scene, this time worn by Genevieve making the actions, as she felt smothered and confused by them worn by clinicians as an inpatient.
- **Dark green TED compression stocking** worn on her arm was a memento from one of her neurosurgeries.
- **Hand actions** of tapping, pinching and slow flipping actions have been inspired by her OT/physio upper limb rehabilitation for her hemiplegic spastic (paralysed) left arm, which is glimpsed in the film hanging down by her body and in one

moment is guided like the passive movement rehab exercises by her right blue gloved hand to collect a paper dot.

- **Repeated circular forms/dots & circles** are inspired by the ovoid giant aneurysm which started her ABI, and the dot-perforated texture of her cranioplasty skull plate and the hospital ceiling tile pattern she spent weeks and months laying under.
- **Natural objects** show the sensory experience of being reintroduced to the living natural world outside of clinical settings. All of those used in the film were gifted to her during her inpatient rehabilitation over half a year,
- **Repetition** is key to neurological rehabilitation where the brain is being re-wired through neuroplasticity. New neural pathways form and work around the damaged brain matter. Scenes reflect each other through the film and use the same forms in new ways.

- **Mirrors** fragment her physical form as a visual metaphor for the disturbing effects of ABI and long hospital stays, in particular the confusion of delirium/hallucinations and intensive care.
- The **ghostly effect** repeating some of the film to the left mimics the prism lens Genevieve wears to compensate for her left-sided hemianopia sight loss caused by the ABI.
- The **spoken word poem audio** was written by Genevieve during a winter spasticity flare-up whilst the trees were bare outside. With references to earth “mulch” mirroring the experience of being under hospital linens. Bent bare trees appear in the work.
- In some of the scenes, the background is **misprint cyanotype photographic prints** from her pre-ABI arts practice, with new narratives layered over.

- The audio is **her own voice** – showing her dysarthric speech disorder speaking her own words.
- The other audio is both **hospital ward sound clips** (Addenbrookes Hospital & Colman Hospital neuro wards) and of the **sea** near her home in Gorleston-on-sea – post-cranioplasty. As when the plate settles, the CSF [CerebroSpinal Fluid] can be heard in the brain, splashing, whooshing and moving like being on the coastal edge, it also calls back to her previous life leading coastal community projects.
- The combination of sea (waves sounds and **collaged material** describes the flotsam and jetsam of hospital debris which collects around the patient in bed).
- The small piles of **sand** also allude to her previous coastal work and “grit” to survive this scenario – the sand was eroded cliff sand collected on a long walk between Gorleston and

Lowestoft in the lead up to her brain injury and hospital experiences.

- The **sketchbook** was work done during a neurosurgery inpatient stay in October 2024 for cranioplasty surgery, with art materials loaned from the Addenbrookes Hospital art department.
- The **hospital blankets** shown were from an emergency visit for a seizure, picking up on the bedding mentioned in the poem, after being non-walking bed-ridden for 7 months in hospital beds.

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Pre-published viewers of the film described it as an “intertwining of connected cycles”, and “captivating”.

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**BECOMING** Genevieve Rudd 2026

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