



## **Autifony Therapeutics supports art exhibition ‘Reassembling the self’, focused on schizophrenia, together with Universities of Manchester and Newcastle**

**London, UK – 16 Sept 2014** - Autofony Therapeutics Limited (“Autifony”), which is pioneering the development of novel pharmaceutical treatments for hearing disorders and for schizophrenia, announced that it is supporting the art exhibition ‘Reassembling the self’ focused on schizophrenia, which opens today at GV Art, the leading art-science gallery, in London. Autofony’s support reflects the company’s belief that the understanding of schizophrenia as a condition needs to be increased. The development of new and better drug treatments will require a patient-centric approach in addition to the advances being made in basic neuroscience. Autofony is joined in its support of the exhibition by the Universities of Manchester and Newcastle, with whom it is collaborating on a novel approach to treatment of schizophrenia, and by the Technology Strategy Board which is part-funding the programme.

*To think of schizophrenia as a fragmented mind and then to focus on isolated fragments – the altered visual perceptions, heard voices, paranoid delusions – is to miss the whole experience... All of the work [in this exhibition] is at heart about human identity, the sense of self and how it holds itself together.* **Professor Anya Hurlbert, Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University**

‘**Reassembling the Self**’ is an exhibition centred on a study of the condition of schizophrenia, which weaves together art, science, psychiatry and individual histories in an extraordinary exploration of self, perception and the fragility of human identity.

As artist in residence from 2010 to 2012 at the Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University, Susan Aldworth took schizophrenia as her theme, building on collaborations with neuroscientists, psychiatrists and patients to produce a series of remarkable lithographs that challenge the sense of identity through their dislocated imagery. These are dramatic, powerful works which locate an essential human experience in schizophrenia. There are also paintings and drawings by Camille Ormston and Kevin Mitchinson, two skilled artists with a schizophrenia diagnosis.

A series of events is being organised during the exhibition to raise awareness, to promote research into new treatments of schizophrenia and to celebrate **World Mental Health Day** on **10 October 2014** which this year takes living with schizophrenia as its theme.

Dr Charles Large, Chief Executive Officer of Autofony commented: “We are delighted to be supporting this important exhibition, together with our collaboration partners. It raises the profile of schizophrenia as a condition, and the importance of the search for new treatments. Engagement with patient groups and mental health charities will be an important part of identifying treatments that meet the needs of people suffering with schizophrenia.”

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There is a full catalogue available.

GV Art 49 Chiltern Street London W1U 6LY +44 208 408 9800  
Tuesday to Friday 11am – 6pm, Saturdays 11am – 4pm or by appointment.

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## EDITORS NOTES:

### **About Autofony Therapeutics Ltd**

Autifony Therapeutics is an independent UK based biotechnology company formed in 2011 as a spin-out from GSK, which retains equity in the company. The company is focused on the development of high value, novel medicines to treat hearing disorders and serious disorders of the central nervous system, including schizophrenia. Autofony Therapeutics is funded by SV Life Sciences, Imperial Innovations, Pfizer Venture Investments, International Biotechnology Trust PLC and UCL Business. [www.autifony.com](http://www.autifony.com)

### **About 'Reassembling the Self'**

First shown at the Hatton Gallery and Vane in Newcastle in 2012 funded by Newcastle University, Arts Council England and local charities, this London exhibition is sponsored by Autofony Therapeutics together with Newcastle University and the University of Manchester, who are collaborating on a project to explore an exciting new pharmacological approach to schizophrenia treatment which is part-funded by the UK's innovation agency, the Technology Strategy Board.

### **About Schizophrenia**

Schizophrenia remains a major healthcare challenge throughout the world. Patients with the condition have a poor quality of life and prognosis. Antipsychotics are the main treatment but up to 70% of patients do not have their condition adequately controlled by existing therapies. Side effects of current approved drugs include weight gain, diabetes, heart disease, movement related deficits and sexual dysfunction. There is a clear need for more effective drugs with fewer side effects.

### **Susan Aldworth: Biography**

Born in 1955, Aldworth studied philosophy at Nottingham University, and printmaking at Sir John Cass, London. She is an experimental printmaker and filmmaker referencing neuroscience and philosophy in her work exploring human identity. Her work is in many collections including the V&A, British Museum and Wellcome Collection library. Significant recent shows include **Susan Aldworth: The Portrait Anatomised**, National Portrait Gallery, **Brains: The mind as matter**, Wellcome Collection, **Mind Maps: Stories from Psychology**, Science Museum and **Images of the Mind**, Dresden and Brno. She is represented by GV Art gallery, London.



## About the Technology Strategy Board

The Technology Strategy Board is the UK government's innovation agency. Its goal is to accelerate economic growth by stimulating and supporting business-led innovation. Sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy. For more information please visit [www.innovateuk.org](http://www.innovateuk.org).

## Contact details

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