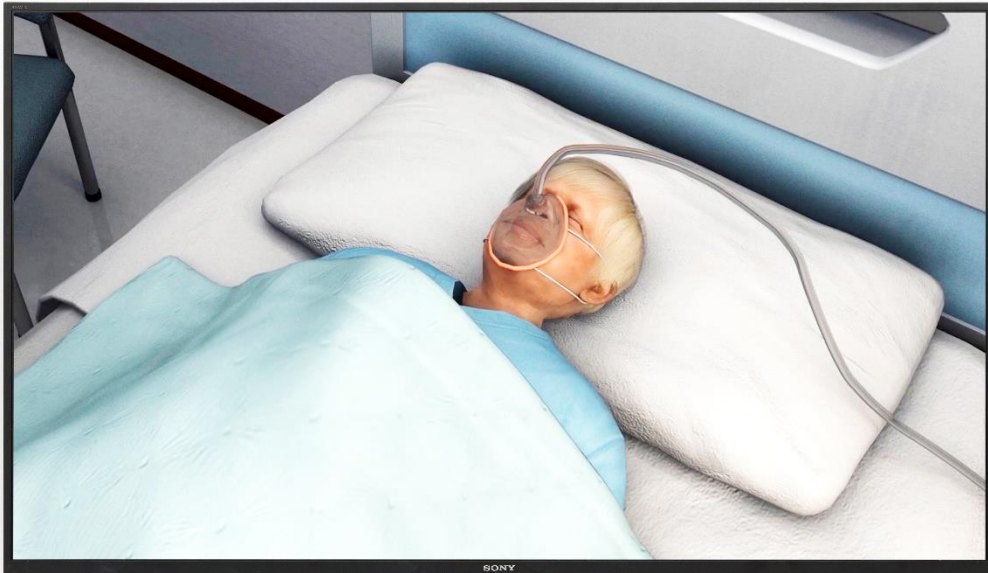


Bob Bicknell-Knight
Outbreak, 2020
HD video with sound
1 min 25 sec (looped)



Outbreak is a short, looping video work, depicting Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 2019 – 2022, attached to a non-invasive ventilator, lying in a hospital bed. The work is a response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and is inspired by Johnson's seven day stay in April 2020 at St Thomas' Hospital in London whilst suffering from COVID-19.

During his stay, and for some time afterwards, many were suspicious of Johnson actually having had the disease, with conspiracy theorists wondering whether the incident had been a public relations stunt to reassure the public that COVID-19 was easily treatable.

Many of the doctors and nurses who cared for Johnson were asked to sign non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) and no photographers were allowed to document Johnson's stay at St Thomas'. Outbreak, therefore, depicts a moment in time that may or may not have happened, and is emblematic of Johnson's disastrous handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK.

Watch the film by going to <https://youtu.be/kDjCLcfm2dl>



A screenshot included in S.P.A.M. Spreads, selected by Sarah Buttell, Okocha Obasi and Katharine Welsh w/ Muna Aghamelu, Shy Bairns, Kirsti Beautyman, Ana Hine and Genevieve Bertagnolli, Bob Bicknell-Knight, Morgan Black, Oscillating Brow, The Disposable Museum Collective, Grace Denton, Ellen Grant, Sam Hutchinson, Beata Key in collaboration with Phil Key, Katharine MacDaid, Will Machine, Theresa Easton and Sheree Mack, Lauren Matthews, Rosa-Maria Nuutinen, Okocha Obasi, Kate Osmond, Sarah Parker, Foundation Press and The Comfrey Project, Andro Semeiko, Helen Shaddock, Melody Sproates, Cherry Styles, Holly Eliza Temple, Joe Williams and Simone Yasmin.

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