

Eva and Franco Mattes aka 0100101110101101.ORG
Reenactment of Marina Abramović and Ulay's Imponderabilia
Reenactment of Gilbert & George's The Singing Sculpture
Reenactment of Vito Acconci's Seedbed
Synthetic Performances in Second Life, 2007 - 2008

Eva and Franco Mattes' *Synthetic Performances* (2007 - 2008) are a series of six reenactments of historic performances of the 60s and 70s, staged by the artists' virtual alter-egos in the synthetic world of Second Life. The series arose out of their polemical stance with regard to the concept of performance art and the very works that they "pay tribute" to. This leads them on the one hand to breach the classic rules of performance art, and on the other to present these works – the efficacy of which was based on the radical way they explored the issues of the body, violence (Chris Burden), sexuality (Valie Export, Vito Acconci, Marina Abramović), identity (Gilbert & George), and the environment and public space (Joseph Beuys) – in a context where these issues acquire a completely different meaning, and as a consequence the original energy of the performance, and its power to provoke, dissipates, or turns into something completely different.

In actual fact the interesting thing about these works lies less in the mortal blow they deliver to performance art and more in the subtle way they bring it to life in a new context and lend it – if you will pardon the pun – a second life.

Domenico Quaranta