

The Blueproject Foundation presents the exhibition "Happens or it didn't pic", the first solo show of the artistic duo Eva & Franco Mattes in Spain. An inquiry into the Internet world which takes shape through videos, installations and daily objects.



- **The opening will take place on the 10th of October at 7pm and the exhibition will be on view in the Sala Project from the 11th of October 2018 until the 13th of January 2019.**
- Eva & Franco Mattes are an Italian artist duo, based in New York, who started collaborating in 1995 and were initially known as 0100101110101101.org. They are considered amongst the pioneers of Net art.
- The exhibition, conceived especially for the Blueproject Foundation, presents four recent projects (two of which are shown for the first time): *Dark Content* (2015), *For Internet Use Only* (2018), *What Has Been Seen* (2018) and *Untitled* (2018).

Information about the exhibition

The Blueproject Foundation presents the exhibition “Happens or it didn't pic”, the first Spanish solo exhibition of artists Eva and Franco Mattes, which will be on show in the Sala Project from the 10th of October 2018 to the 13th of January 2019. The two New York based Italian artists are also known as 0100101110101101.org and are considered amongst the pioneers of Net art. Together with bani Brusadin, they direct and curate the festival The Influencers, at CCCB, Barcelona.

In this exhibition, conceived exclusively for the Blueproject Foundation, the Mattes present a group of four recent works: three episodes of *Dark Content* (2015) project, exhibited in Spain for the first time on this occasion; *For Internet Use Only* (2018); and two new works entitled *What Has Been Seen* (2018) and *Untitled* (2018).

Dark Content (2015) is series of video installations about internet content moderators. Contrary to common imagination, the removal of offensive material from the Internet is not carried out by sophisticated algorithms, but anonymous human beings. The artists have interviewed one hundred moderators and have created a series of videos in which avatars with computer-generated voices speak in their place, retelling memories about content they have removed from the web, including pornography, sexual solicitation, and racism. The video interviews are displayed on screens attached to Ikea home office furniture, which are placed in unusual arrangements, thus generating a shift in the physical approach of the public.

More furniture appears in *For Internet Use Only* (2016), this time used as screens in which the video is projected. Presented for the first time as a performance, here is the recording of a live stream of the computer desk of the artists. We can see their daily activities, for a certain time, without any censorship: all kinds of actions such as scrolling Facebook, replying to emails (and we can read their content), Internet searches. In this way the

artists eliminate the difference between public and private, reveal their intimacy and turn the public into a witness of their actions. However, as spectators of the exhibition, the artists are placing us in the position of the voyeur, the same we experience daily in front of our own computer or mobile phone screens.

In line with the same investigation, in which their personal details are shared with the public, the new project (untitled for now) presents graphic representations of the artists relationships by mapping their emails. For the piece shown in the exhibition, the first one of this new series based on data analysis, the artists have again used furniture turned into small cabinets and used them as physical medium once more, this time for printing purposes. Before being assembled, the cabinets parts were printed with infographics showing the directions and volume of the artists email connections.

Another new and unseen artwork in *What Has Been Seen* (2018), a sculpture of a taxidermy cat sitting on a microwave containing an erased hard drive. This piece is inspired by memes of cats –and can be perhaps interpreted as a continuation or evolution of their well known *Ceiling Cat* (2016)– and is named after an axiom of the web: *(What Has Been Seen) Cannot Be Unseen*, which states that one literally cannot get rid of the mental image that becomes part of the memory after looking at a disturbing photo or a video.

In “Happens or it didn't pic” we can witness the universe of the web through different perspectives thanks to the vision of Eva and Franco Mattes, who have carried out a thorough and convincing investigation on this matter, through videos, installation and daily objects.

Biography

Eva and Franco Mattes (born in Italy, living in New York, USA) are an artistic duo, at first known as 0100101110101101.org, that has collaborated since 1995. They're considered among the main representatives of Net Art. They have continually made work that responds to and dissects our contemporary networked condition, always approaching the ethics and politics of life online with a darkly humorous edge. They are founders and co-directors of the international festival The Influencers, held annually at the CCCB, Barcelona (2004-present). They are also part of the collective Don't Follow the Wind, a collaborative project that organized an inaccessible exhibition in the Fukushima Exclusion Zone (2015-present). The Mattes have received grants from the Whitney Museum, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; New York Foundation for the Arts; and were awarded the New York Prize 2006 from the Italian Academy at Columbia University. They are recipients of the Creative Capital Award (2016), won Rhizome's Prix Net Art (2017) and received the Italian Council grant (2018). Recent group exhibitions are at Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2018); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2018); Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie (2017); Yokohama Triennale (2017); Biennale of Sydney (2016); Whitechapel Gallery (London, 2016); Hammer Museum (Los Angeles, 2016); among others. In 2001 they were among the youngest artists ever included in the Venice Biennale.

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Information and images available at:

<http://www.blueprojectfoundation.org/es/area-de-prensa>

Practical information:

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Opening hours:

from Tuesday to Sunday, from 10 am to 8 pm