

THE--FAMILY

The--family consists of collaborators who relate to one another transparently and intimately in an ongoing performative practice that creates a collective reality – at times theatrical, yet hardly staged. Their bonds can and do manifest as conventional social behavior, not unlike the ecstasy, exhaustion, amusement, engagement, boredom and repetition known to lovers, friends or collaborators. The local and collective nature of the practice bound with the diversity of the performers elude a mere dramatic rehashing of social behavior, ritualizing instead the possibility of what is unscripted in human encounters.

Although rehearsed within parameters of loose feedback, all performances remain unset. It's the co-presence of performers and audience that sets an iteration of the relationship in motion. Relying only on their shared rehearsal history, the performers make it up as they go along, rendering the dynamics of a private situation — for example intimacy, affection, and awkwardness — a situation for public participation. How the performers relate and commit to one another is the actuality of any single occurrence of the work. They live it as a sort of familiar unpredictability while creating a minimally if at all aestheticized effect. The performers come as they are, offering themselves as themselves; the sensations shared throughout the performance make or undo any self in the room.

The--family has positioned itself in art, regarding it as one of the few fields where such a proposal is practicable. The performances are artworks insofar as they are a condensed instance of an evolving relationship put on display within the structures and institutions of art. To this effect, the--family engages art ethically, considering its activities a form of play not aligned with discourses of work. Monetary transactions are occasional at best and revolve around covering costs. As a willing host of these ethics, art is valuable to the practice on two further accounts: in creating a larger public beyond the ongoing open rehearsals and in making it economically manageable. *The--family* is thriving.

<http://the--family.com>