

Negotiations

Daniela Kostov and Olivia Robinson

Negotiations is a project that explores cross-cultural communication and interpretation. Over a period of two years Daniela Kostova and Olivia Robinson developed an interactive system that utilizes blue screen video techniques as a tool for manipulating human bodies moving through unknown environments. The system has been performed in three distinct public environments: Sardinia, Italy, New York City, USA and Sofia, Bulgaria.

As both a conspicuous costume and virtual assimilation act, each performance has fostered the development of a site specific story. Recurring themes emerged from the performances: estrangement and integration; placidity of legality, territory and ownership; and mediation of experience.



Negotiations, 2006-2008

The *Negotiations* system uses readily available computer and surveillance technology to create the real time video. Two characters embody the system, an Alien (in blue) and an Authority (in black). Each has a video camera linked to a computer embedded in the Authority's costume. Custom software composites the two video streams to create a 'negotiated' final video. The resulting imagery is solely from the Authority's point of view - as she surveys the Alien. The Alien's image however has been replaced with her own point of view. The Alien carries a hand-held

monitor which displays the 'negotiated' video and passers-by can view the final video as it is being created. It becomes the focal point, allowing relationships to form during performances and highlighting the double-consciousness of cross-cultural communication.

Technology

The technology used includes: custom made software Max MSP Jitter; wireless monitor; wireless surveillance camera; wireless transmitters; video cameras; laptop computer; chroma key fabric

