

Time Out

London

Iain Forsyth & Jane Pollard



'Walking Over Acconci (Misdirected Reproaches)', 2008

★★★★★

Kate MacGarry

Bethnal Green to Hackney

Getting slagged off to your face by your ex-girlfriend isn't exactly a pleasant experience. Particularly when the ex in question is a lippy, articulate, loudmouth girl in a stripy top and skinny jeans, who is now going out wiv' someone who doesn't give her ANY SHIT, is a great cook and has a big dick too.

Lucky you're in a gallery, and this is just an art video by Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard, the lippy bird being up-and-coming London MC MissOddKidd. For many years Forsyth and Pollard's work has explored the border between art, pop music and popular culture. 'Walking over Acconci (Misdirected Reproaches)' is their second reworking of seminal video artist Vito Acconci's 1973 'Walk-Over', in which the artist, pacing to and from the camera in a long

corridor, addresses the viewer about the qualities of a third, female subject, comparing her qualities to 'you'. Acconci's original tests the question of who 'you' is in the relationship between the viewer and an interlocutor who is only really a video image, at the advent of the novel medium of video.

Forsyth and Pollard's remake celebrates how we've become used to being addressed directly by a screen image: we're a generation brought up on the image of the pop singer and now the rapper, addressing the camera and speaking directly to the viewer. MissOddKidd's songs touch on the generic experiences of young urban life, of drugs and shit boyfriends, and her 'misdirected reproaches' are expertly generic and clichéd. Forsyth and Pollard's insight is in the way they reveal how our culture of TV-mediated emotional authenticity is itself a masquerade, a performance.

JJ Charlesworth