

## [-empyre-] A Brief History of Second Front

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The (true) Apocryphal Story of Second Front  
By Patrick Lichty

As part of documenting Second Front, the (alleged) first performance art group in the online virtual world, Second Life, Iâm giving an account of how Second Front has its roots in technology and performance, as it derives its name from the legendary Vancouver Artist-Run Center, Western Front. Getting further into the events leading up to the formation of the group may be longer than the casual reader may want to engage with, and may be more than a few events that are seminal to the formation of Second Front, one of them being Christiane Paulâs introduction of Jeremy Owen Turner. Between 2003 and 2005, Lichty and Turner had a stillborn online industrial band called The Hellfire Missile Club, which repeatedly threatened to perform in 2005, Jeremy Owen Turner, Doug Jarvis, and Patrick Lichty were roommates at the Banff New Media Institute for the REFRESH! Media History Project. By September 2006, Scott Kildall is online, as is Turner, and they are reenacting pieces like Abramovic/Ulayâs Rest Tensionâ, and Chris Burden. In late September of 2006, Lichty is now at Columbia College Chicago, and Turner and his partner Tanya Skuce are interested in getting more involved. In October of 2006, Milan-based code performer Gazira Babeli (having actually worked with Lichty under pseudonyms in the 1990âs) joins Second Front. Currently, Second Front has seven performance videos online, a DVD, and is negotiating to perform several historical score-based performance pieces.

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