

# Art in Review

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## Cory Arcangel

*Team*

*83 Grand Street, SoHo*

*Through Dec. 20*

In his latest show the precocious Cory Arcangel approaches outdated media — film and VHS tape — with the blithe attitude of a YouTube satirist. Old and new forms of moving image mingle awkwardly in his meditation on failure and obsolescence.

The centerpiece is a two-hour projection, “Video Painting,” that combines the now obsolete medium of VHS tape-to-tape transfer with current computer-editing programs. The clumsy special effects quickly become tiresome, but one has to admire Mr. Arcangel for his effort to repurpose analog and digital waste.

A more lyrical amalgam of old and new systems is “Personal Film,” a short, abstract 16-millimeter film made on a computer from downloaded clips of film stock. Parts of it resemble experimental films by Stan Brakhage and other avant-garde artists, but the Final Cut Pro software logo is embedded in the count-

down.

The projects in the basement gallery are closer in form to Mr. Arcangel’s previous work, but they introduce a new, absurdist narrative. In “Permanent Vacation,” two identical Mac computers exchange out-of-office messages in a feedback loop. And in “Self Playing Sony Playstation 1 Bowling,” a hacked video game generates gutter ball after gutter ball.

In a related performance at the New Museum on the night of the exhibition opening, Mr. Arcangel presented 50 yet-to-be-executed ideas for artworks. (These included a 12-tone cellphone ringtone, inspired by Arnold Schoenberg, and a blog consisting entirely of links to “sorry I haven’t blogged in a while” posts.)

In his winning way Mr. Arcangel half-mocks, half-celebrates the idea that technology can eradicate the distinction between high and low culture.

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