

## Reviews

### Cory Arcangel



**Team Gallery**, through Sat 4  
(see Soho)

The works in “Subtractions, Modifications, Addenda and Other Recent Contributions to Participatory Culture,” Cory Arcangel’s second solo show at Team Gallery (which also inaugurates its new space in Soho) defies categorization. Part computer hacker, part cultural commentator, Arcangel uses accessible, mainly digital technologies to remix familiar pieces of pop entertainment.

For *Untitled (Translation Exercise)*, the artist dubbed “new” dialogue into Richard Linklater’s coming-of-age movie *Dazed and Confused*, recording employees of an executive assistant outsourcing firm in India reading the original lines. But each “actor” recorded their lines independent of the others, so the dubbed dialogue, though often comedic, fails to connect. The piece can be read as an allegory for the way America’s economic reliance on outsourcing frays the social fabric.

*Untitled (After Lucier)* is a digital video loop using footage from the



Beatles legendary 1964 appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*—a broadcast that literally rocked the world. Arcangel wrote a program that digitally compresses the loop so that the image degrades as it plays. Eventually it will be rendered unintelligible, a comment on the erosion of cultural significance: The Beatles, once the most famous band in the world, mostly make headlines these days for dying or getting divorced.

Arcangel experiments with digital media in the same way that artists in the 1970s played with video—using new technologies to conceptual ends. He may have been labeled a digital artist, but his real medium-bending interest is information.

—Adam E. Mendelsohn