
Art in Review

Cory Arcangel

Team Gallery
527 West 26th Street, Chelsea
Through Feb. 12

Cory Arcangel and Paper Rad

'Super Mario Movie'

Deitch Projects
76 Grand Street, SoHo
Through Feb. 26

The idea that all things digital and electronic are as easy for artists to use as found images or objects receives exciting corroboration in Cory Arcangel's solo debut at Team Gallery. For the occasion, Mr. Arcangel, an artist, musician and computer wizard whose work was seen in the 2004 Whitney Biennial, created a mélange of found or manipulated music, music video and video games.

At Team, he demonstrates an impressive range of possibilities, as well as surprising affinities with Formalist, Conceptual and Process Art. There are several of the "handmade hacked Nintendo cartridges," to quote from the exhibition checklist, for which he is best known, most notably a stripped-out version of "Space Invaders." It reduces the action to single alien craft, replacing freneticism with quieter contemplation of the image's changing iridescent colors.

Making more of a social point is "Beach Boys/Geto Boys," in which Mr. Arcangel juxtaposes music videos of these bands; its obviousness is redeemed by an inspired blending of their songs. Authorship itself takes a holiday in "Private Eyez," which pairs karaoke music with more bright colors, and "Message My Brother Justin Left Me on My Cell From the Slayer Concert He Went to Last Week," which is exactly that.

"Doogle" is a monomaniacal search engine where all the results pertain to the television series "Doogle Howser, M.D." And the video "Cat Rave" features a wall-size video projection of Mr. Arcangel's cat zoned out in its own small day-glow environment.

At Deitch, Mr. Arcangel joins forces with the Internet collective Paper Rad to create "Super Mario Movie," a single, ambitious work. In it, the image component of the early "Super Mario Brothers" Nintendo game is rerouted to create a narrative about the program's erosion and its effect on one of the perpetually dazed brothers.

An admiration for formalist painting is evident here, too, with extraordinary patterns pulsating in time to music composed by Jacob Ciocci of Paper Rad on a program by Mr. Arcangel. The notion that everything made by humans can be remade —

disassembled, recombined and diverted toward new purposes — shines forth in these shows.

ROBERTA SMITH

CORY ARCANGEL, Team Gallery, 527 West 26th Street, Chelsea, (212) 279-9219, closing tomorrow. In one of the season's best debuts, the collaboratively inclined Cory Arcangel and his cohorts create quasi-interactive sound and video pieces of startling and subversive beauty by commandeering various electronic or digital staples including music videos, karaoke tunes, video games, the Internet and even a long phone message. The sense that anything man-made is grist for personal expression is exhilarating.

SMITH

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