



Cory Arcangel, still from *Sans Simon*, 2004.

Cory Arcangel & Beige
Team Gallery, through Feb 12
(see Chelsea)

It's hard to believe this is Cory Arcangel's first solo gallery show in New York, since he's been kicking around museum exhibitions for several years, serving as a kind of ad hoc spokesman for digital art. But along with his Beige Programming Ensemble, Arcangel debuts with a splash.

Predictably, much of the work here is interactive. There's the computer search engine, "dooogle.com," which returns results for Doogie Howser, M.D., no matter what the query. An interactive iPod-like video, programmed for Nintendo and displayed on a flat screen monitor, makes the songs you select—by Kraftwerk, 50 Cent and others—sound like video-

game theme songs. Then there's the "T.A.C." (Total Asshole Compression) program, which increases, rather than condenses, the size of computer files. A video, *Sans Simon*, is a low-tech video prank, with Arcangel using his hand to blot

out the face of Paul Simon in a Simon and Garfunkel performance.

Most of Arcangel's works, both here and to date, revolve around the reprogramming or hacking of computers. The results are sometimes hilarious, occasionally just cute. What he doesn't touch on is hacking's notorious reputation as an illegal and insurgent activity, such as the infiltration of military sites by Israeli teenagers or the sabotaging of American corporations by the computer-geek underground. Arcangel is in the business of feel-good high jinks like a harmless kid who engages in practical jokes. But with his technological know-how and connections to Beige and the Radical Software Group, you sense he could do better—something a little weightier, at least, than "dooogle.com."—*Martha Schwendener*