



The End of Analog: The year's switch to digital television has prompted a group show at the Roots and Culture Contemporary Art Center that "marks this historic transition with an exploration of technology's shifting significance on our culture." It is a big order filled more by essays (at endofanalog.blogspot.com) than the show's objects. But the works are diverse enough in medium and tone that they still demand to be seen rather than just be spurs to ideational writing.

Nostalgia is not, in any case, an idea, and it underlies the majority of pieces even when they're absurd or distanced through process. The absurdity comes in a collection of 36 drawings (plus more created on video) that attempt to recreate the living spaces of several TV sitcoms. The distancing is evident in Todd Simeone's digital alterations and enlargements of vintage LP jackets. Each preserves artifacts from throwaway culture of the past by putting them at the center of contemporary creation. The labor expended suggests how much longing for the past there is. It's even memorialized in Rebecca Gordon's funereal "sculpture" of CDs and jewel cases.

Video pieces by George Monteleone and Alexander Stewart, Brandon Alvendia and Jon Sattrom eschew such nostalgia, proving so contemporary that viewers attuned to the other works may have difficulty sorting out what they're seeing.

★★★ *At 1034 N. Milwaukee Ave., through Saturday. 773-235-8874.*



Alan Artnr
Chicago Tribune
3.20.09