



John F. Simon Jr.
Flip
2007
Gering & López Gallery

The dresser piece reminded me of an exhibition at Gering & López last fall, a selection of seven elaborate cabinets crafted by **John F. Simon Jr.** to house and present his custom-designed computer codes -- something utterly abstract -- that manifest as ever-changing, tumbling abstract patterns on LCD screens. Suggesting Mid-Century Moderne, the cabinets are multicolored and inscribed with elaborate, laser-cut decorations. What's more, each cabinet represents a different chakra, and embodies a specific kind of energy.

As someone who came of age during the Conceptual Art era, my first impulse was that all the additional meanings that Simon had layered onto his "pure" code were extraneous. "Everything is code," the artist explained. "And there are lots and lots of codes." He won me over when he added the one inspiration for his cabinets were the "home entertainment centers" that now house digital content within our analog living rooms and dens.

The high design of Simon's work is very much in line with the sensibility animating the **2008 Whitney Biennial**, which is about décor more than anything else. Everything in the show is shiny or polychromed or naturalistically textured, impeccably laid out and neatly aligned; even the art that resembles construction detritus is arranged like a Zen garden. ...

by Walter Robinson, editor of Artnet Magazine, March 10, 2008