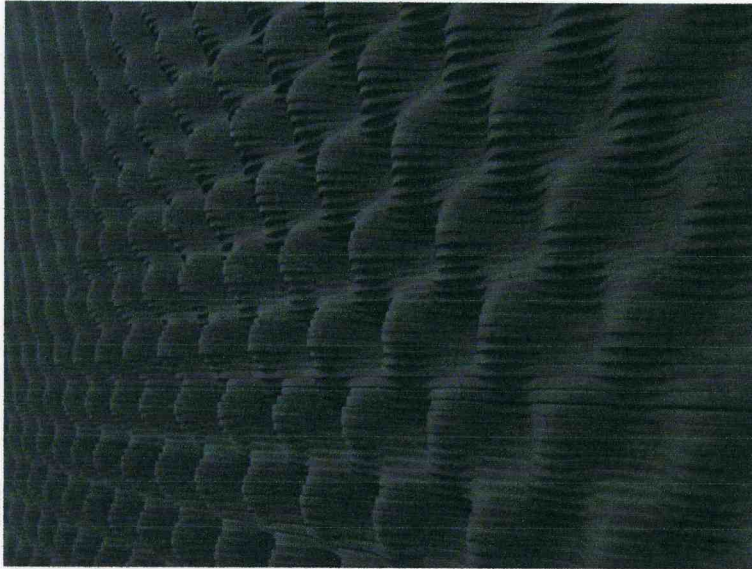


VISUAL ART



“Ara Peterson: Multidimensional Warp”

» **REVIEW** Ara Peterson has cast a large shadow on the underground art and music scenes. Certainly, his work with fellow artist Jim Drain in Forcefield, the legendary Providence, RI, noise band-art collective, has been influential. So influential that the patchwork psychedelia-sensory overload they espoused has been appropriated by players in everything from the US noise scene to what a cryptic journalistic neologism refers to as new rave. Peterson’s show at Ratio 3 has none of the goofball humor that characterized his alter ego Patootie Lobe in Forcefield. But there is still plenty of optical and tactile disorientation, in keeping with recent work.

Here Peterson has eschewed his videos and sculptures, as well as his kaleidoscopic work with Jim Drain, for wall-mounted pieces, though, to be fair, these are quite sculptural. As usual, Peterson’s art is thoroughly intricate. Based on synthesized wave formations, the work seems to defy its materials. Each of the six pieces on view is constructed of more than 100 thin laminated laser cuts of birch plywood, pieced together to form the kind of microscopic patterns found on the leaf of a plant or the back of one’s eyelids. Each piece ripples like some fractalized moiré pattern. Indeed, as one walks around the pieces, they appear animated. Like Josef Albers’s landmark *Homage to the Square* or Marina Apollonio’s op art paintings, Peterson’s works fold inward and outward, disorienting and hypnotizing the viewer. Alongside each other, *Black Warp One* and *Black Warp Two* represent positive and negative views of one particular wave formation. Resembling soundproofing foam, they seem to allude to the fact that these wave shapes may overwhelm you. Not with sound, but with vision. With sensation. With hypnosis. “Multidimensional Warp” may be a small collection of Peterson’s work, but the exhibit’s shapes and formations hit an optic nerve, where nearly all senses are called on, seduced, and overwhelmed. **(Alexis Georgopoulos)**

ARA PETERSON: MULTIDIMENSIONAL WARP Through June 10

Sun., noon–5 p.m.; and by appointment; free. Ratio 3, 903 Guerrero, SF
(415) 821-3371, www.ratio3.org