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Art

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Ara Peterson

[Ratio 3](#)

903 Guerrero St.
 San Francisco, CA
 (646) 732-2767
 (Mission)

"The Wedge," sculpture and video.
 --Chronicle

Through 7/3/2005
 Daily

Ara Peterson's black-and-white striped stacked-wood sculptures could be the wayward younger siblings of SFMOMA: This is architecture on acid. If you notice a consistency between these Op Art totems and the swirling black, white and primary video hovering over the entryway like a flashback, you're onto something: Each sculpture is a physical, vertical representation of five minutes of compressed video footage. Peterson has invented a specially designed program to output each five-second interval not as a printout, but as a plywood cutout. The plywood is then painted and stacked into graceful yet quirky sculptural forms that are equal parts Renaissance cathedrals, Martha Graham dancers, Victor Vasarely Op "squint prints" and "Yellow Submarine" set pieces. Walking into a room full of these towering monoliths is a very disorienting and wonderment-inducing experience; it's hard to tell whether you're in a futurist version of Siena's duomo, or in Alice's Wonderland. Any way you look at it, it's an experience not to be missed. -- Alison Bing, special to SF Gate

--[SF Gate](#)

