

See it, hear it, experience it

The coupling of two or more bodily senses, known as synesthesia, has an extensive history in Modern art. (The subject was chronicled by the Museum of Contemporary Art in the 2005 exhibition "Visual Music.") For a solo debut at Bank Gallery, **Tyler Adams** fuses colored light and sound.

Adams' "Colour Organ" projects a large square of light against the darkened gallery's wall. Loud, fuzzy white noise fills the room, emanating from speakers.

As the pitch, tone, intensity and other sound qualities slowly shift, so does the color of the projected light. Purplish magenta slides into aqua blue, which bleeds into bright white and then a yellowish hue.

The chromatic transitions are gradual and deliberate. There are moments when multiple colors seem interspersed, recalling camouflage patterns. It's difficult to tell whether those colors are actually being beamed by the projector high overhead at the rear wall, or whether they are fugitives generated by fatigued rods and cones in a viewer's eye.

The rumbling sound is likewise ambiguous. It shifts from

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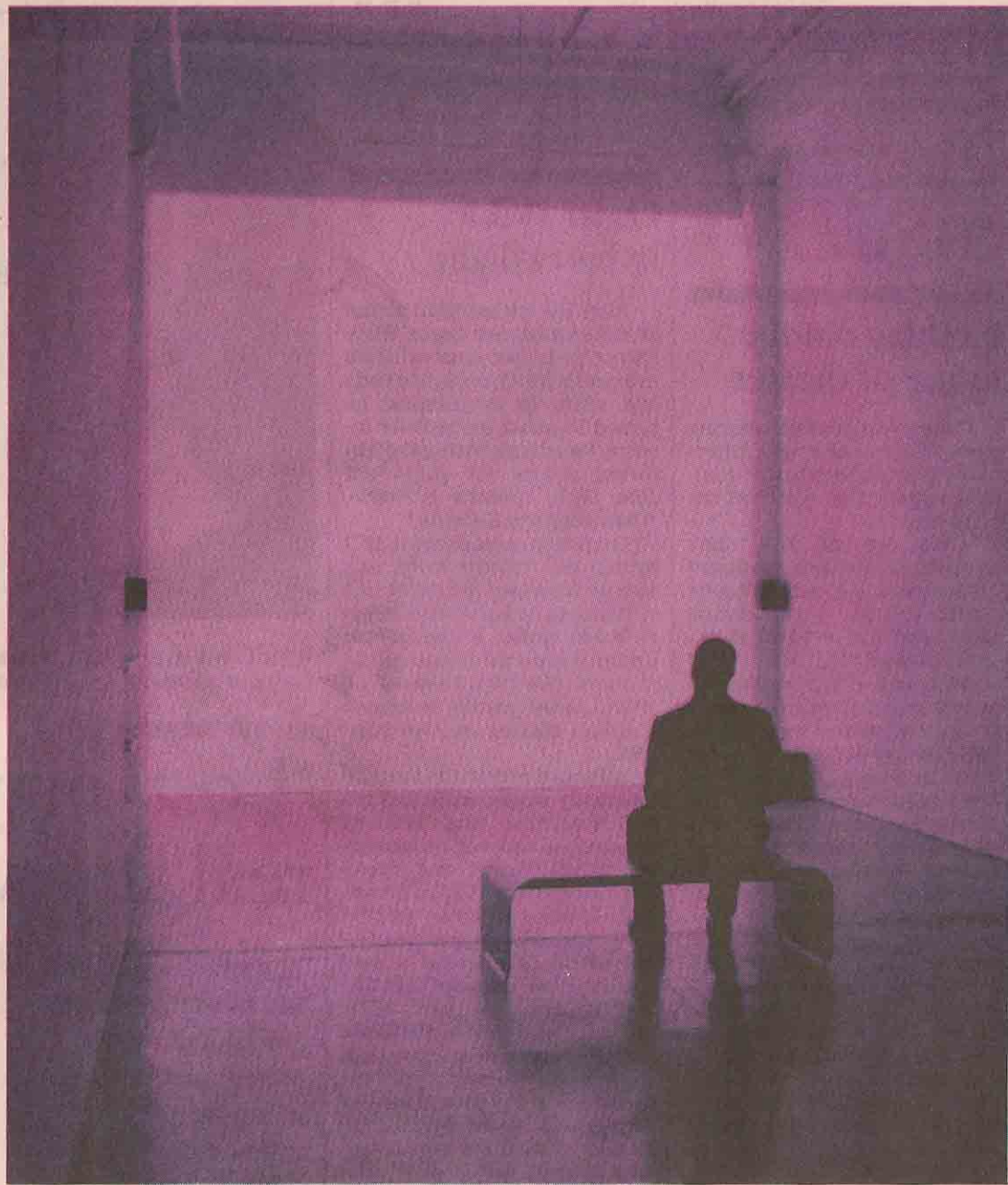
recalling natural phenomena (rain, waterfall) to man-made ones (radio static, engine roar) and back again. These alterations seem to be precisely calibrated to the color shifts. But the color remains abstract, rather than suggesting representational images (a sunset, say, or a lava flow).

In essence, Adams is deconstructing white noise. His electronic environment is assembled with a software program that audibly maps a visual range. Its resonance is sliced and diced, and the spectrum of colors contained in white light oozes out.

If there's a weakness to the otherwise provocative installation, it's a certain lack of precision. "Colour Organ" suffers from a difficulty that bedevils James Turrell's early light projections, which require stability to work their visual magic.

Turrell's projectors regularly go out of focus. Likewise, on the day I saw Adams' projection it did not create a precise geometric shape on the wall. Across the top and down the left side, the line between dark and light was soft and blurry. Intentional or not, it makes the piece feel slack. For sculpture that relies on acuity, precision seems essential.

Bank Gallery, 125 W. 4th St., (213) 621-4055, through April 7. Closed Sunday and Monday. www.bank-art.com



'COLOUR ORGAN': Tyler Adams fuses colored light and sound for sensory effect at Bank Gallery.