



Imagery by installation artists Granular Synthesis used to advertise "Feld 1" at Wood Street Galleries.

Wood Street Galleries is not about 'entry level' art

In his review of Granular Synthesis at Wood Street Galleries (Nov. 8), John Hayes suggests that The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust should use the Galleries to "draw the uninitiated into the fold, to expose them to entry-level forms of communication, to offer accessible stuff that could lure new audiences to 'higher,' more sophisticated media."

Each year The Cultural Trust programs Wood Street Galleries with "accessible" installations, and in fact opened the Galleries this season with our very accessible "The Italian Influence: Contemporary Glass" show. However, it is not our mission, nor is it the mission of any gallery, to expose patrons to "entry-level" art at every exhibition. Wood Street Galleries strives to showcase internationally recognized artists — and the fact that the artists of Granular Synthesis chose to premiere their latest work in Pittsburgh is a prestigious event for both Wood Street Galleries and Pittsburgh.

It should also be noted that the current audience for Granular Synthesis is much younger — under 30 — than the average Wood Street Galleries crowd. This multimedia installation is far more immediate and "accessible" to them. Likewise, last spring's show by Tim Rollins and K.O.S. brought students from Pittsburgh's Liberty Elementary School to create their own work for the exhibition. Art, by its very nature, cannot be all things to all people. But if Wood Street Galleries is attracting young adults to the arts, then we are fulfilling an important mission, indeed.

MURRAY HORNE

Curator and Exhibitions/Facility Manager, Wood Street Galleries