

“Eye Exams: The Worst of Times”

-Michael Workman, New City, March 23, 2006

Jonathan Gitelson's new show at Peter Miller Gallery is too much fun to miss. Gitelson, the story goes, began taking notice of the flyers left on his car every morning and started collecting them. After accumulating a few thousand, he hand-stitched them together into a car cover, then parked and photographed his car in front of the various nightclubs from which the flyers came. It simultaneously documents and protests, an absurdist reaction to the city's publicity-starved nightlife culture. Gitelson's a long-time part of Miller's stable of young Chicago photographers along with Brian Ulrich and Matt Siber, and it's nice to see him finally getting a little of the spotlight. His camera's perhaps less flamboyant and a bit more searching than his peers, but his images result in the most well-defined humor of the three, an often difficult subject to render properly in photography. These rise successfully to the task. Though Gitelson has had his "Car Project" on display before, this is the first gallery show of the work and worth a visit.