



In the Galleries

By Alan G. Artner
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Marilyn and Peter Frank: The Franks, formerly of the Chicago design firm f2, present multimedia works at Rowland Contemporary that tread the well-worn path of art and commerce by laconically exploring the art dealer's relationship to the marketplace. All of the pieces -- photographs, paintings, a video, original and found objects -- have words that point up relationships of galleries to stores and money.

However, where such relationships once conveyed ire and the weight of condemnation, the pieces here -- including a video advertisement for a pawn shop set to Rossini's Overture to "La Gazza Ladra" -- look upbeat and coolly cheery. While older viewers may expect them to be critical, the Franks' works may just as easily be accepting, even celebratory. So they have things both ways, pointing up degrading conditions with a smile. Whatever one imagines about dealers and art and money, it's all here happily decorative and, in our brave, post-everything world, normal.

At 1118 W. Fulton Market, through Oct. 25. 312-421-6275.
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