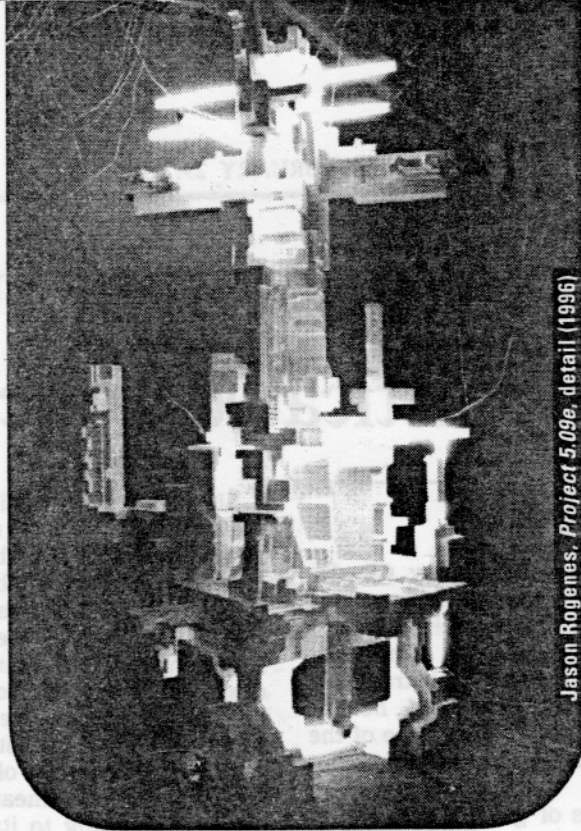


# Art Reviews



## Jason Rogenes at Post

Orange County native Jason Rogenes' *Project 5.09e* draws its inspiration from the artist's fascination with all things outer space, an aesthetic obsession satisfied by scavenging strip-mall trash heaps. The work fills an entire room, walls lined with cardboard, effectively installing the viewer inside a packing box. A huge columnar sculpture rising from the center of the floor and occupying most of the room is made entirely from those oddly molded Styrofoam packaging pieces used to protect and secure electronic equipment in transit. Neither radical NASA scientist, nor impractical engineer, Rogenes seems rather a messenger from suburbia on his first solo mission in search of strange new worlds. His creation of a new science-fictional architecture out of Styrofoam — an obnoxious and dejected material — acts on the viewer like an invitation onto the artist's ark.

The sheer accumulation of materials entices the viewer into this cardboard-encrusted space to contemplate Space, but surrounds him/her with artifacts from a place as far away (from Post's downtown location), isolated and weightless: the suburbs. By gathering and rearranging the familiar but sci-fi-esque forms and shapes of consumer-driven design, the installation — part city, part vehicle, part weapon and part robot — manages to teleport the viewer on a fluid but disconcerting (crack-damaged?) ride through the artist's vision of outer space. *Project 5.09e* reminds those unable to engage in the lost popular art of astronomy — for Los Angeles' night sky is perpetually blocked by a glimmering orange light — that space was, and always has been, the place.

—Steve Knezevich