

CREATIVE LOAFING

Best Shock and Awe Gallery

SEP. 30, 2004

With most galleries and museums, you kind of know what to expect. **THE ATLANTA CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER**, however, manages to continually shock — in a good way. The Contemporary has managed to consistently appeal to the fringe and the center, alternating its exhibitions between the fun and the eggheady, the pop and the academic. The Contemporary exposes innovative regional artists to Atlanta viewers, as in the recent Michael Oliveri exhibition *Fast Food, Hydrocarbons and Waves in Outer Space*. And curator Helena Reckitt occasionally steps aside so independent curators can introduce a fresh perspective, as seen in this year's thoughtful group show *Terrain Vague: Architecture, Photography and the Postindustrial Landscape*, which traveled to Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Art.

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