

# NEW CITY ARTS

## The Techno-Emotional: Canogar At Second Street Gallery

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We wandered into Second Street Gallery this afternoon to see Daniel Canogar's (much-anticipated) "Reboot."

The installation is beautiful and worth the trip. The things that we find mostly get in our way (i.e. techno-clutter— ethernet cords, CD's, tangles of wires), Daniel Canogar has resurrected into a beautifully "littered collective memory, a portrait of our society in this particular age."

Second Street elaborates on Canogar's ideas: "Voluntarily, we allow ourselves to be trapped by cobwebs of our own making, daily utilizing technology to create complex techno-emotional connections that seem to bring us together but in fact can separate and isolate us."



The work eerily reminds us of Alain de Botton's writing in *The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work*. De Botton spends some time with the work of a rocket scientist to conclude, "We [are] now deep in the era of the technological sublime, when awe could most powerfully be invoked not by forests or icebergs but by supercomputers, rockets and particle accelerators. We [are] now almost exclusively amazed by ourselves."

The most interesting thing about this artist (Canogar), or in the case of this author (de Botton), is their willingness to "ask questions about how technology has changed the way we feel about ourselves, about notions of what it means to be alive, or dead." Neither artist nor author are calling for an abandonment of our technological ways; they are just calling into question the assumptions that technology subtly makes about our humanity— our relationships with one another and our understanding of ourselves.

In a similar vein, almost every Round Table that we've hosted this year has ended with a techno-conversation, even if the Round Table topic has been seemingly unrelated.

Anyway, if we were to attempt to re-imagine Daniel Canogar's work here in this blog, we'd just be giving into the very non-presence that makes for Canogar's material. Rather than reading, we suggest stopping in to experience this buried technology in a fully present, re-imagined way.