

# JOHN FLUEVOG THINKS YOU'RE AWESOME!

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## Review: Isak Applin/Roots & Culture

Painting, Wicker Park/Bucktown

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Isak Applin's exhibit "Six More Miles" presents a case study on the life and times of an assemblage of various hipster types. "5000" stands as a quasi-example of "The Potato Eaters" of our time; a bunch of beard-sporting, flannel-wearing guys alongside women bearing equally expressionless faces bears a striking resemblance to the emptiness and futility of Van Gogh's overworked and poverty-stricken subjects. Only in this case, the subjects are not poor, but soul-deprived. "Geno D's" exhibits disaffected youth once again with relish, suggesting that music is the modern-day God of youth, with the girl standing on stage pulling up her top for the audience's benefit—a fitting example of a generation in search of connection. Like co-exhibitor Ben Seamons, whose egg and tree-stump forms tug at some sort of pagan symbolism, Applin's saving grace is his use of color. The unbridled pastels bespeak a dewy dreaminess perfect for reverie. (Marla Seidell)

Through October 17 at *Roots & Culture*, 1034 N. Milwaukee.

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