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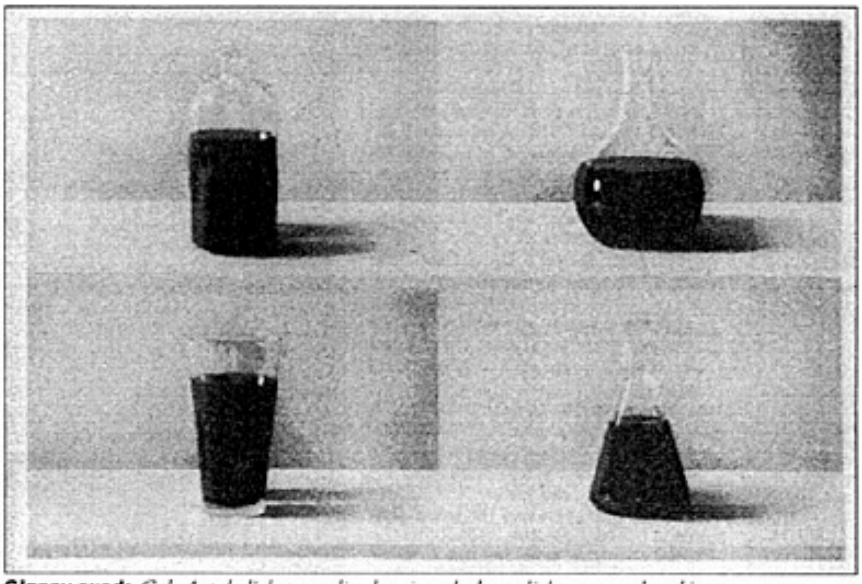

UNTITLED #9, BY GALE ANTOKAL

**Glassy-eyed:** *Gale Antokal's hyperrealist drawings shed new light on everyday objects.*

## Gale Antokal/ Mari Andrews

*Through April 30, Patricia Sweetow*

WHILE THE STUDY of inanimate objects has given rise to some of the world's most revolutionary art (think of Picasso's cubist still lifes or of Frida Kahlo's luscious watermelons), the genre of still life has become less popular in recent decades.

Perhaps that's because our lives these days are less contemplative, more frenetic-but as artists Gale Antokal and Man Andrews pmve in two radically different bodies of work, there's still much to be gained from the close observation of everyday objects.

In Andrews's works, black wire and dried grasses combine to form delicate, skeletal wall sculptures that resemble seed pods and other plant forms. Meticulously woven, the sculptures themselves take on the aura of sacred objects, drawing attention to the fragility of the natural world.

At the other end of the spectrum, Antokal's hyperrealist drawings of glass containers seem cold at first, but there's an intensity lurking below the surface of the artist's rather formal inquiry.

Presented in groups of four, the works focus on the fluid nature of glass, various shapes of which are depicted containing either milk or red wine.

There's something almost Zen about these vessels, which hover gently on monochrome backgrounds. Though different in nature, both sets of work here offer new ways of observing familiar objects, and in the process become intriguing objects in their own right.

*Tues.-Fri., 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.-5 pin., 49 Geary. S.F (415) 788-5126.(Sarah Coleman)*