

# PATRICIA SWEETOW GALLERY

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### At Haines Gallery

Dennis Leon and Diane Andrews at Haines Gallery, San Francisco

By Kenneth Baker

Upstairs at 49 Geary, clouds ... fill a series of small square paintings on thick panels by Diane Andrews Hall at the Haines Gallery. Hall's pictures, snatches of sky under various conditions of light and weather, remind me of Joan Nelson's in that they appear to be quotations from art of past centuries. Hall's glazing technique itself seems to make reference to the past, yet her pictures have the character of samples that we associate with scientific study. (The series is interrupted here and there with panels of black or solid monochrome, as if these were views taken at intervals around the clock.) The beauty and realism of Hall's work underline our current distrust of painting's report of any reality besides its own.

The main event at Haines is a great jumble of recent sculpture in wood and bronze by **Dennis Leon**. Visitors who merely glance in will think they are seeing a gallery cluttered with rocks. For Leon continues to make rough plywood structures (sometimes cast in bronze) that resemble shards of stone or, with a slight twist of one's imagination, whole cliffs and mountainsides.

Leon's Haines installation is high-energy thanks to constantly shifting relations among his objects' real sizes and their implicit scale as images. Yet grasping Leon's manner of working spares you none of the effort nor pleasure of looking. Sculpture in the Bay Area doesn't get much better than this.