

**Galleries**

# Impressive art on a small scale

By Nancy Stapen  
SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE

SMALL WORKS FOR GIVING  
*Akin Gallery, 207 South St. Through  
Dec. 22*

Akin Gallery offers a cross section of mediums, including painting, sculpture, drawing and photography — all on Tom Thumb's scale. Painters Nan Tull and Ellen Banks offer appealing small versions of their usually large-scale work. Tull's images of horizontal stripes under a thick layer of wax are at once straightforward and mysterious, and Bank's painted handmade paper images contrast an organic surface with geometric composition. Both compel longer viewing than one might expect on this scale.

So too the little pastel landscapes of John Stockwell, which feature the aquamarine and other colors of a Caribbean landscape. Stockwell draws with authority, and the artist's touch — that old-fashioned commodity — is pleasingly in evidence.

A constructed sculpture by James Charlton is composed of a glass bottle filled with green fluid that culminates in a sharp metal point. The object is vaguely sinister, like some relic of a mad scientist's demented project.

Gwen Akin and Alan Ludwig are the conceptualists here. Their long, vertical composite photograph, "Silence," at first visually indecipherable, is in fact composed of repeating images of a fish seen from above. The artists transpose one reality into another, effectively commenting on the mutability of our beliefs and assumptions.

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