

# San Francisco Chronicle

## 'A Trapped in Your Mind Feeling' in Oakland

By [Kenneth Baker](#)

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**Andrews and Olson shine:** Bay Area sculptor Mari Andrews has shown the site-adjustable work she calls "Propensitus Gravitus" (2001-13) in other settings, but anyone who has not seen it should not miss its installation at Chandra Cerrito. It consists of 37 river rocks - I infer from their shapes - each depending from a steel rod. The rods' other ends, in turn, Andrews inserted into dispersed holes in a wall.



The rocks' weight draws their supports down into gentle arcs, making an improbably lyrical affirmation of gravity, the work's shadows on the wall even suggesting a musical score.

The shattered 10-ton meteor that rained injury on Russia in February has added an unsought timeliness to "Propensitus Gravitus."

Andrews' artistically inert piece, "Navigating the Slipstream" (2013), on the opposite wall hints that even she has not realized the true brilliance of "Propensitus Gravitus." But her "Collected Topography" (2012), a tight, wall-mounted row of little lead pockets filled with soil samples from all over - a sort of geological spice rack - restores a viewer's confidence.

The back room at Cerrito shimmers with photo-derived abstractions by Penny Olson in the medium - new to me - of dye-infused aluminum.

Empty apart from the chain of modernist allusions always attached to a grid, Olson's pieces, especially those with the least color, achieve a sort of ringing silence such as we might imagine belonging to light itself.

**A Trapped in Your Mind Feeling:** Sculpture, photography, drawing and video. 5-8 p.m. Friday. 1-5 p.m. Saturday. Or by appointment. Through May 18. Aggregate Space Gallery, 801 West Grand Ave., Oakland. (510) 832-3807. [www.aggregatespace.com](http://www.aggregatespace.com). 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Or by appointment. Transmission Gallery, 770 West Grand Ave., Oakland. (510) 835-2626. [www.thetransmissiongallery.com](http://www.thetransmissiongallery.com).

**Mari Andrews: Gathering Gravity:** Sculpture. **Penny Olson: Original Source:** Photo-derived abstractions. Through May 30. Chandra Cerrito Contemporary Art, 480 23rd St., Oakland. (510) 260-7494. [www.chandracerritocontemporary.com](http://www.chandracerritocontemporary.com).

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