

# THE MONTHLY

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## ART

### Through the looking glass

Kana Tanaka's new work at Chandra Cerrito Contemporary in Oakland celebrates the play of light on glass. Born in Aichi, Japan, Bay Area resident Kanaka is known for her commissioned interactive glass sculptures that grace atriums and art centers across the West.

In this show, titled "KAGAMI" ("mirror" in Japanese), Tanaka transforms the self-conscious and often uncomfortable act of peering into a reflective surface into a playful exploration. In "Mirror Surface," pendants of blown glass hang from the gallery ceiling and resemble a field of dangling teardrops.



Tanaka's tears.

COURTESY CHANDRA CERRITO CONTEMPORARY



"Morning Dew," a sculpture of glass orbs woven together with strands of metal, conjures up a rain-speckled spider's web.

Tanaka manages to infuse this ice-like material with warmth and fluidity. She captures that brief moment in the hot shop when the glass glows red and stretches like buttery taffy and translates it into dynamic forms that resemble the billowing roundness of a dividing cell or the pendulous, just-about-to-burst curves of a water drop.

The natural play of light amplifies the liquid energy of these sculptures that seem to balance on a cusp, looking as if they might move or melt. Beams scatter, refract, and dapple the wall and draw the gallery observer into the spectacle. At their best, Tanaka's pieces are events in which light and glass and the viewer's eye mingle and dance.

"KAGAMI," April 2-May 15, Chandra Cerrito Contemporary, 480 23rd St., Oakland; free; (510) 260-7494 or [chandracerrito.com](http://chandracerrito.com).

—Jeanne Storck