

## GALLERIES

Nancy Selvin merges landscape, still life and Oriental craft tradition in a show of small ceramic teabowls, usually set on lacquered trays along with two or three rods of colored glass. These works are probably inspired by functional objects, but, translated by a contemporary Californian, they take on the exquisite mannerisms of art for its own sake. Towing a line between the honest earthiness of exposed clay and the precious refinement of lacquer over wood, Selvin's art comes close to succumbing to conflicted attenuation. It survives because of her poetic sensibility and use of seductive color.

She combines the simplest elements—a volume (bowl), line (rods) and plane (tray)—in spare compositions made rich by light, clear hues that seem to have an inner glow. The bowls are four- or five-sided containers, assembled to reveal their slab construction. They are glazed on the inside with glossy translucent color and brushed with matte strokes on the exterior. Lacquered trays in oddly angled shapes have satiny, almost pearlescent surfaces of subtly graded color. Once we get beyond Selvin's methods and Oriental borrowings, her arrangements suggest Western still lifes, made to human measure, and landscape's ability to conjure up limitless space.

Her artworks of carefully built objects seem to float free of boundaries. (Jacqueline Anhalt Gallery, 748½ N. La Cienega Blvd., to Jan. 5.) —S.M.