

COUTURIER**GALLERY**166 N. LA BREA AVENUE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION: **GALE ANTOKAL: *Blumenstock***
24 pastel drawings

DATES: **October 19 – November 24, 2001**

OPENING: **Artist's Reception, Friday, Oct 19, 7-9pm**

GALLERY HOURS: **Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 5pm**

Gale Antokal, who has shown at Couturier Gallery for the past 6 years, is best known for her large scale pastels on paper, depicting simple everyday objects against monochromatic backgrounds. Each piece goes beyond her superlative drawing technique, transforming daily-life elements into subjects of meditation, reflecting their own intrinsic elegance and beauty. The photo realism of her rendering has a hypnotic effect, as does the depth given to the object within the haunting atmosphere she creates.

Antokal's third solo exhibition at Couturier Gallery, *Blumenstock*, will include 24 pastel drawings of tulips, each flower shown at its zenith, the moment in time when its petals are lush and glowing, the colors both strong and delicate. Antokal's tulips have the starkness of a Mapplethorpe, the gentleness of an O'Keefe, and a purity and tenderness that's uniquely Antokal's.

When the artist photographed one tulip from a bouquet in 1999, she was struck by how timeless the image was. Without a background to place it, the flower could have been part of any still life from the 16th through the 21st century. The artist began visiting flower stands on her way to the studio each morning, choosing two or three tightly folded tulips and then painting them when they were just beginning to open.

In *Blumenstock*, the tulips stand alone against a single-color background. Each tulip bears the name of a woman painter of the 17th or 18th century known for her floral still lifes: Judith Leyster, Elizabeth Koning, Giovanna Garzoni, Elise Bruyere, Clara Peeters, Rachel Ruysch, and eighteen others.

For further information and/or press photos, please contact the gallery.