

# SFGATE

Baker, Kenneth, "‘Outdoors’ exhibition lacks depth," *SFGATE*, November 17, 2001

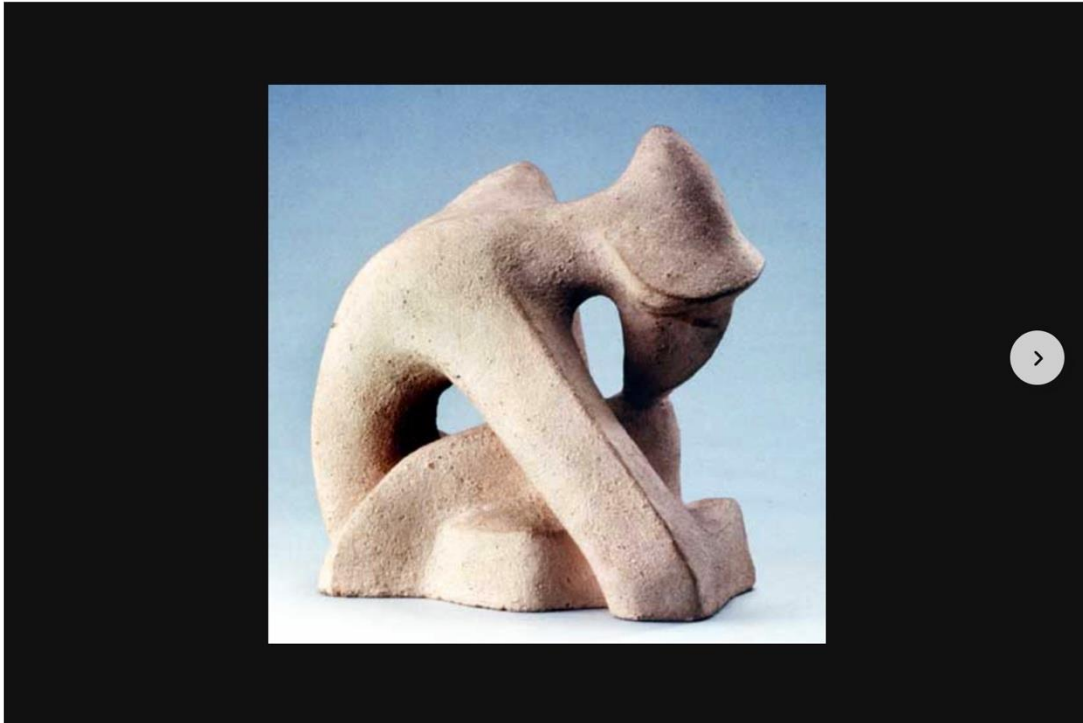
Entertainment

## 'Outdoors' exhibition lacks depth



Kenneth Baker

Nov. 17, 2001



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Adaline Kent's "Scribe" (1944): Figure or abstraction?

## ADALINE KENT AT 871

Most people now remember the name Adaline Kent (1900-1957) because of the annual award, named in her honor, given by the San Francisco Art Institute.

But Kent was a sculptor of some distinction, as anyone who sees the small retrospective at 871 Fine Arts will recognize.

Wealthy and well traveled, Kent found promptings everywhere for her mature surrealist carvings and casts: in the art of Isamu Noguchi, Henry Moore and Alberto Giacometti, in the weathering of stones and dead trees, in ancient Japanese Haniwa sculpture.

Her best pieces invite multiple readings as landscape and figure, or figure and architecture, or, as in "Scribe" (1944), figure and abstraction.

The 871 survey fills a gap in the public's awareness of mid-20th century art in Northern California.

ADALINE KENT: Sculpture and drawings. Through Dec. 22. 871 Fine Arts, 49 Geary St., San Francisco. (415) 543-5155.



Written By  
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Kenneth Baker has been art critic for the San Francisco Chronicle since 1985. A native of the Boston area, he served as art critic for the Boston Phoenix between 1972 and 1985.

He has contributed on a freelance basis to art magazines internationally and was a contributing editor of Artforum from 1985 through 1992. He continues to review fiction and nonfiction books for The Chronicle, in addition to reporting on all aspects of the visual arts regionally and, on occasion, nationally and internationally.