

9 Gill Gatfield | *Half Glass*

Toughened glass

2000mm x 1000mm x 19mm

\$24,700

Half Glass appeals to our human desire to question, frame, organise, solve and resolve. It toys with the inherent contradiction of a glass that is half-empty but is also a glass half-full. Defying all technical limits for cutting and toughening glass, the work rises from the ground, poised, elegant, apparently fragile and thin—yet also robust and firmly anchored.

Half Glass is both transparent and reflective. A chameleon, it swings between mirror and lens, frame and content, representation and abstraction. Unlike true mirror which encloses, inverts and flattens a three-dimensional image, *Half Glass* creates multi-dimensional images in an ever-changing blend of background, foreground, distance, light, and movement.

The central rectangular void is equivalent to half the volume of the work. A vertical form in human scale, it suggests a frame to contain the body at the same time as it locates the landscape as central and contextual. The human form is reflected in the margins, imprinted on the environment; a portrait within a landscape.

From her studio in Whangaparaoa, conceptual artist Gill Gatfield (LLB, MFA (Hons)) produces abstract paintings and sculptures that reveal intriguing layers of image and meaning. Using rule-bending, innovative processes, she makes unique permanent works in cut glass, live grass, disposable nappies, magnetic fields, and electric currents.

Gatfield's practice is concerned with the complexity of minimal forms, the poetry within the commonplace, and the beauty in the mundane. Her critically-recognised work features in national awards, public gallery and solo exhibitions, and in art collections in New Zealand and overseas.

Image of Half Glass maquette

