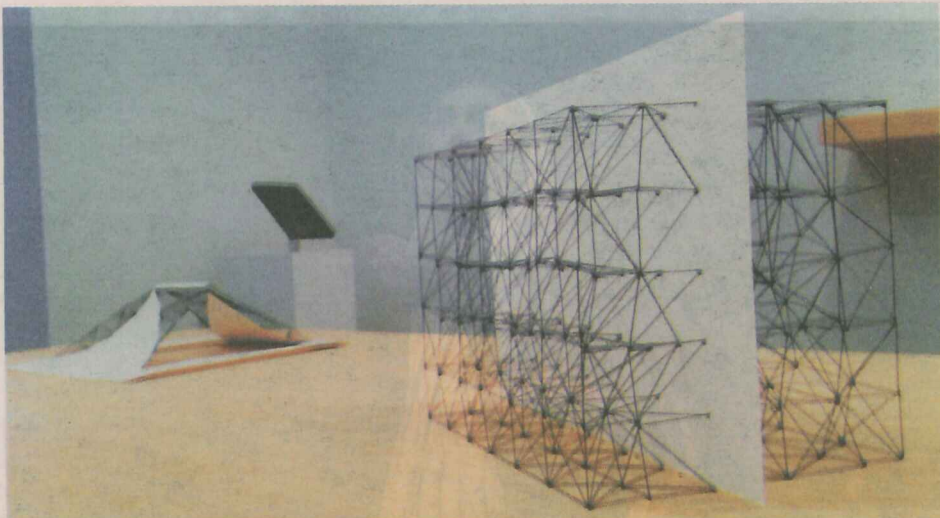


ART



Mariano Dal Verme's tabletop sculptures, made with graphite and paper, are on view in the upstairs project space at Sicardi Gallery through Aug. 31.

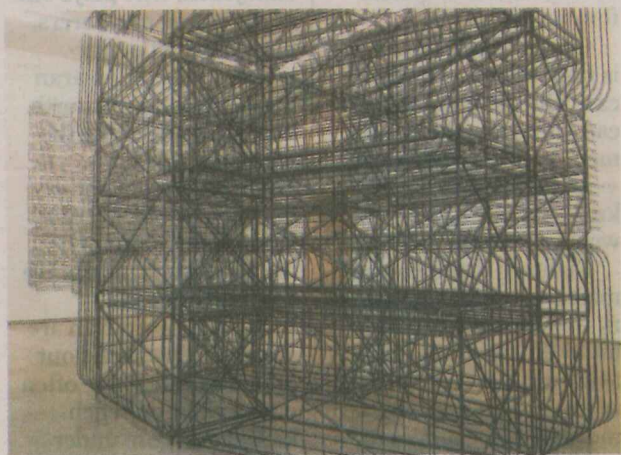
Black lines rule in exhibits

By Molly Glentzer

Mariano Dal Verme's "On Drawing" offers a perfect counterpoint to Pablo Siquier's "Structure," which has been enticing viewers at Sicardi Gallery. Both Argentinians compose obsessively, with black lines.

Siquier's room-eating carbon-steel sculpture "1308," a marvel made entirely of hooked parts for easy assembly and disassembly, suggests a many-celled prison or an elaborate, collapsible dog cage. Several heroically scaled drawings that were composed digitally before being outlined by hand suggest mirror images of it.

Dal Verme's tabletop sculptures in the Project Gallery answer Siquier's confined environments with a celebratory breath of humanism. Miniscule by comparison, they're composed of small sticks of graphite meticulously glued by hand into three-dimensional rays that



Molly Glentzer photos / Houston Chronicle

Pablo Siquier's monumental "Structure" and large drawings are on view through July 27.

'On Drawing' and 'Structure'

When: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays. "Structure" through July 27; "On Drawing" through Aug. 31
Where: Sicardi Gallery, 1506 W. Alabama
Admission: Free; 713-529-1313, sicardi.com

are further engineered into cubes and triangles, then suspended like

tension cables to bend and flex bits of creamy Arches watercolor paper. You might see them as geometric spider webs. Whatever. They make your mind fly.

This is the first solo exhibit in the U.S. for Dal Verme. Siquier also has a piece hanging in the group show "Mighty Line" at Williams Tower Gallery through Aug. 9.

molly.glentzer@chron.com