

**IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WINE
CELEBRATING A BOOK OF HIS PAINTINGS, THOMAS ARVID POPS THE
CORK ON THE NUANCES OF FINE ART**

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THOMAS ARVID has proven that wine connoisseurs are as avid for paintings of the bottled stuff as sportsmen are for paintings of ducks.

In a decade of close-ups of glasses and bottles, the Kennesaw-based, self-trained artist has accumulated a four-year waiting list for original paintings and established a market for high-quality, digitally printed giclee reproductions that frequently sell out the limited editions. Thomas Arvid Fine Art Inc. employs 12 people to coordinate the demand from 50 galleries in the United States, Canada and Japan.

Now, Arvid has produced a book of his work, modestly titled "Arvid: Redefining the Modern Still Life." People have been painting bottles of wine and glowing glasses since the 17th century, but nobody has paid quite so much attention to reproducing actual brand names, discreetly viewed through the rim of a glass or framed by surrounding wine paraphernalia. Other still lifes might make textured corks and glints of light on glass into symbols, but to Arvid, it's all about the wine. And the pleasures of sharing the known quantities of a good year and label.

So this fine-art version of uncompensated product placement is hot stuff among oenophiles, and Arvid is bringing it to Vinings Gallery. He'll be signing books at a gallery wine tasting on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Fans of fine wine will love it. Or more accurately, they already do.

Arvid comes surrounded with a considerable amount of buzz and outright hype, a reflection of his celebrity status in the wine-marketing world. That alone should make this weekend's appearance a piece of theater that many will want to check out.

THE 411: 7-10 p.m. Friday, 6-10 p.m. Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Vinings Gallery, 4686 S. Atlanta Road, Smyrna. 404-794-7762.

Photo: Thomas Arvid's "Eight Empties" (above) and "Unplugged" are part of the artist's niche for creating detailed wine artwork.