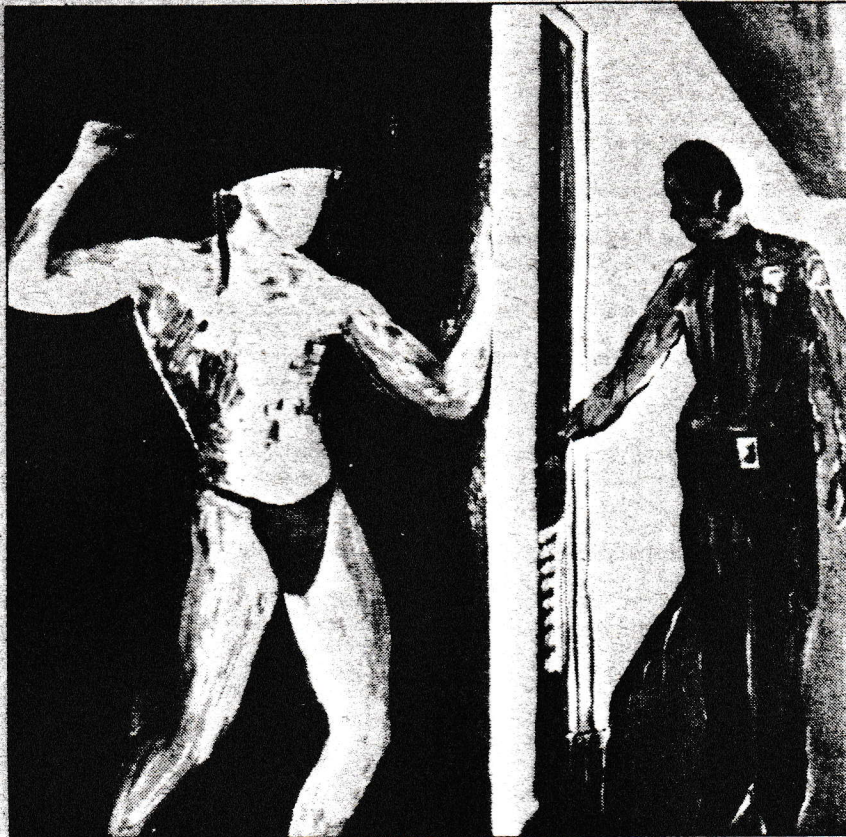


PICK OF THE WEEK
L.A. WEEKLY SEPT. 4-10, 1981
DAVID AMICO

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David Amico's most recent series of paintings, "Riverside," presents disparate images on a common theme. They evolve as a narrative with titles and characters providing the clues. Yet the pictures may be combined and interpreted in any order. Many intentionally borrow elements from some art historical "style." For instance, "Heart Left" is a portrait, an elongated scarlet head with an anxious, open mouth reminiscent of Munch. "Oh, That Fear" layers a Warhol-like cartoon line drawing of James Dean over a rosy background of laughing Buddhas. "Dwelling in the Shadow of Kings" tells another part of the story. A dark, heated and awkward painting that speaks of struggle, the artist's seesaw acceptance and rejection of his traditions. By not projecting a single "style" (although they are all unmistakable Amico) the works deny the egocentricity of the individual artist while asking personal questions. Amico is a romantic, an artist searching for clarity in a confused world. The search, however, isn't exclusively one of anxiety. Amico's paintings never lose their sense of humor, as though in the process of attacking so-called "serious issues" he is simultaneously aware of the absurdity of it all. It is this combination of bravery and vulnerability that lends the paintings their strength.

The show continues at Jancar-Kuhlenschmidt through September 26.

—Hunter Drohojowska