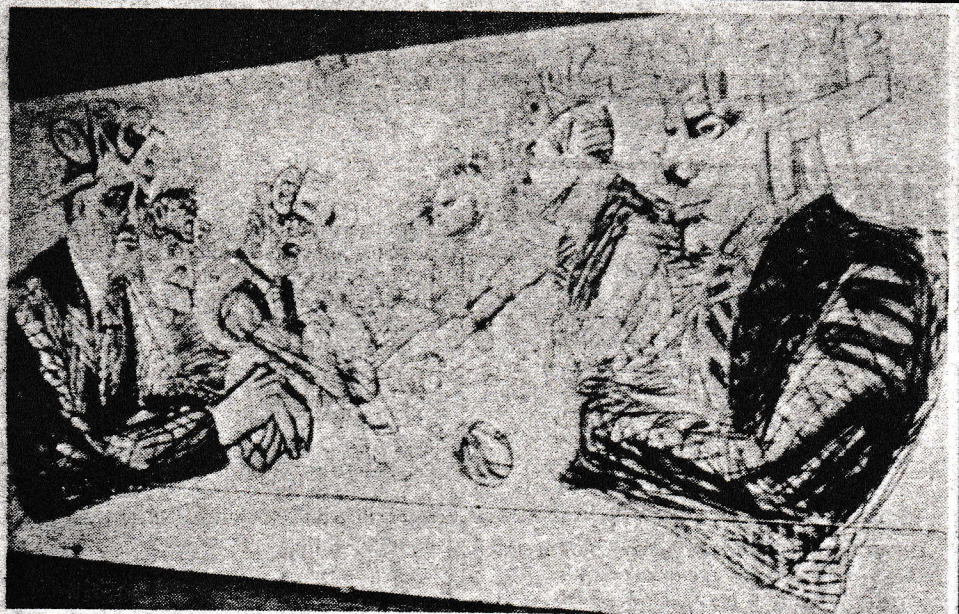


L.A.

Pick Of The Week



Rodart's *The Centaur and the Wolf*
at Margo Leavin Gallery



Wallworks, curated by Susan C. Larsen, is an exhibition which explores the concept of the wall as active space rather than simply a place to hang a painting. The 14 artists included represent something of a survey of approaches to the interface between painting and sculpture. Mike Glier painted directly on the wall, with the spontaneity of graffiti and the uncompromising didactics of political murals. *White Male Power*, shown above, is a clear enough caricature of authority figures obsessed with control at any cost. In humorous counterpoint, Glier painted on the facing wall the figure of a small boy, smiling as he holds an adult's body-building trophy. The two murals present both the cause and effect of adult male aggression. Megan Williams also paints directly on the wall, incorporating three-dimensional elements in order to extend the presence of the piece into the room. The outline of a woman waves from the doorway of a home in a linear suburban landscape. Escaping from the deadened surroundings are the wild black ghosts of imagination, swirling about in a chaos of scribbles on sheets of crumpled paper. The painted ghosts then become three-dimensional wiry black figures, moving away from the wall, only to return again to cartoon-like outlines of a boy, a girl and a dog reminiscent of Dick, Jane and Spot. It's a great fantasy narrative. At the gallery entrance, Andrew LaTree has created an even more elaborate installation of upended and dried-out bush branches and palm fronds, all tied together with jungly tendrils of electrical cords attached to motors and fans. The flip of a switch starts the greenery trembling and jiggling with no apparent purpose other than the manic random movement. Other artists in the exhibition use the wall to capture a figure or a gesture frozen in space. Robert Hansen's pieces are graceful, almost architectural; Marc Pally's seem awkward and rough-hewn; Don Hazlitt's works come forth as candy-colored, funky landscapes. The other artists in the show include Walter Cotton, Ros Cross, Steve Kahn, Myrna Katz, Stephen McKeown, Carla Pagliaro and Jean Wenzel. This ambitious and intriguing exhibition is on view at the University Art Galleries, USC, through January 31.

—Hunter Drohojowska

Currently on display at Margo Leavin Gallery are works by eight artists that explore recent interests and developments in American painting. Thoughtfully curated by Jeff Gambill, Irit Krygier and Douglas Roberts, the exhibition is aptly titled *Changing Visions* and is a gratifying departure from the gallery's usual presentations of more traditional contemporary art.

The artists in the show are Louisa Chase, Michael Dvortcsak, Jeff Gambill, Jed Gareth, Pierre Picot, George Rodart, Russ Warren and Todd Wison. Circumventing the restraining influences of conceptualism and minimalism, they present their views of the world with fresh, clear vision, while at the same time retaining a fundamental salute to modern painting in general. Images and non-images are contained in various expressive painted formats which portray the artists' personal and subjective concerns. The exhibition is not only innovative, but successful in premise and presentation.

—Neal Menzies