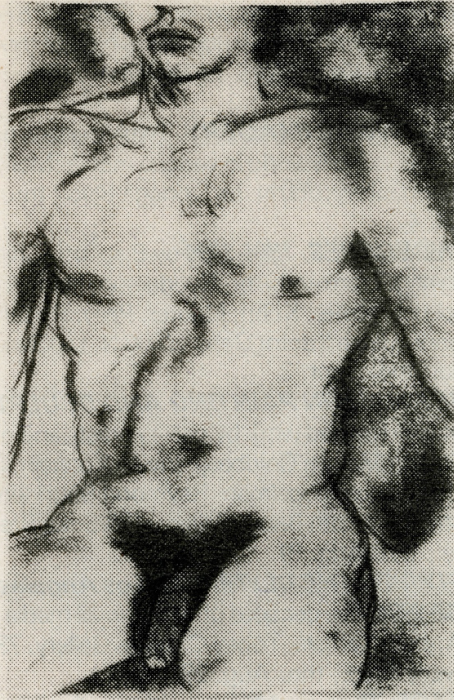


Pick Of The Week



**JYM Seated V, by Frank Auerbach, 1983,
oil on canvas.**



**Actor (Richard) by R. B. Kitaj, 1979,
pastel and charcoal on paper.**

The current show at L.A. Louver's two Venice locations is a testament to someone's superior taste. The level of artworks in this exhibition should set a standard for L.A. galleries, and even among these mostly major pieces by 34 artists, some real standouts emerge. Old pro George Segal is represented by a new work, *Woman Seated on Chair*, in which the molded figure leans into a positive "space" that bulges out around her. Both the woman's hair and the background have been painted an unreal blue, lending the piece a certain desperation and longing not previously seen in Segal's work. Richard Joseph's new acrylic on paper of a walking figure displays some genuinely virtuoso painting: the paintstrokes that compose the man simultaneously deconstruct him, peeling off like strips of bark from a failing tree. Over his head the small figure of a Bob's Big Boy floats, Chagall-like, beside a plate of bacon and toast. Young artist Rick Stich's untitled painting of trees and reflecting water makes brilliant use of unpainted areas in a work that pushes his spare style to a new level of delicacy. Tony Berlant's view of Santa Monica Bay brings a surprisingly light touch to his technique of composing with strips of found tin and nails. Edward and Nancy Reddin Keinholz contribute a mysterious wall assemblage called *The Twilight Home*, and Jene Highstein presents three of her oxidized bronze floor shapes that seem more the result of natural processes than any human decisions. The show also includes the much-reproduced *Ocean Park 134* by Diebenkorn and an elegant New England landscape by James Weeks. Strong works by Frank Auerbach, R.B. Kitaj, David Hockney, Sam Francis, Salome and James Surls round out this stunning installation of American and European painting, drawing and sculpture. (L.A. Louver, 55 N. Venice Blvd. and 77 Market Street, Venice; thru Sept. 22)

—Leslie Wolf