

ARTSPEAK

A TWICE A MONTH GALLERY REVIEW

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From emerging artists and galleries to seasoned veterans

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Whether employing abstract symbols or figurative ones, **Linda Gran**, in her solo at **Atlantic Gallery**, 164 Mercer Street, till June 17, "Symbols and Other Realities," creates bold forms that command the entire canvas in pictorially striking ways. This is no easy achievement and it attests to her command of form in painting.

Her show's title indicates that Linda Gran assumes that the real world, what is vital to life and art, is more than appearance, or literal reality. Her largest canvas, "The Landscapes of the Mind," has a symbolic female nude in a 'landscape' formed by planes of various stripes. Her "The Eye of the Storm" creates wavelike vortices, whereas "The Prophet" has rainbow-like stripes surrounding the very large head. Her canvases are dynamic and vigorous, with an unusual personal color and a pervading sense of magic, like the secretive masklike work, "The Disguise."

Nearby in Soho, **Douglas Coll** has his NY/USA debut at **SportsSoho Gallery** at 588 Broadway, a large space for sports paintings. Among these works, painted by this artist from Spain, are large portrait heads of Met ball players, Sid Fernandez, Darryl Strawberry. . . Others are more action scenes—two of football, a doubles game in tennis, windsurfing (with sails), canoeing, chess, in large oils, as well as a watercolor of runners and four color lithos of sports scenes.

Not only does Coll like action scenes, but



Linda Gran, "Disguise," Atlantic Gallery



Douglas Coll, "Windsurfing," (Miami, FL) SportsSoho Gallery

he has an eye for them. These works are accomplished with such ease that one never questions the reality of the scene. Also,



Fran Lew, "Portrait of Dr. DuVigneaud, Nobel Laureate", Pen and Brush

beyond that, the human touch is noticeable in his portraits—Rusty Staub, pensive and self contained, John Sterns, forward looking, anticipating his future. Yet, most promising of all is the windsurfing in Miami that catches a casual, unguarded moment, the taut athletic female figure, the stance of waiting. The gallery opens officially with

this exhibit.

At the **Pen and Brush Club**, 16 East 10 Street, until June 6, in a solo exhibition, portrait artist **Fran Lew** shows oils of varied types of portraits. She is represented by Grand Central Art Galleries, NYC, and her next solo is at the Manhattan Borough President's Art Gallery, Municipal Building, 1 Centre Street, June 8 to 28.

Her portraits of famous people features a trilogy, "Lead Us in Peace into Zion"—Golda Meir, David Ben-Gurion, and Moshe Dayan—but others are of non public figures, such as "Family Portrait," the approach varying with the subject. There is also a selection of figure studies done with classic handling.

Sandy Scott's gallery of bronze sculptures, also a solo exhibit until June 6, is most unusual in the next room because almost all are of spread winged birds about to take off or end flight, a dramatic, arresting moment. To Sandy Scott, the bird is performing a miracle of action, surpassing nature or making the best of nature. These pieces are all feathers, all movement, the lyric triumph of the Cockatoo, Hummingbird, Eagle Rising. . . It is significant that six are "Wing Studies," as the muscles and feathers become abstractions.

All four of these artists have cut out a special field to deal with and have become excellent in what they have chosen. They help to make the downtown scene dynamic.