

METRO PICTURES

Howell, John. "SoHo Art Takes," *New York Beat* (April 11, 1984).

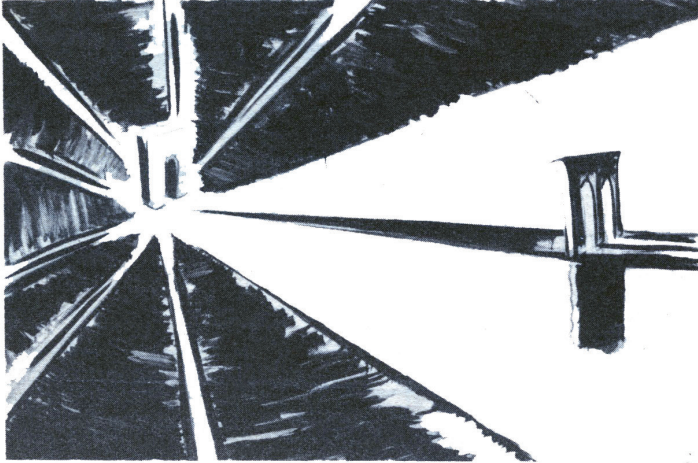
Soho Art Takes

John Howell

**Rene Daniels; Metro Pictures
150 Greene St.; through Apr. 21**

This painting show confirms a lyrical,

surrealist drift in the heretofore programmatic Benjaminite-imagism of Metro's pictures. There's a dream



landscape with Rousseauish figuration; a giraffe floats above natives in a European tree-lined road. There's a cartoony joke: a canvas full of fishes, each with part of another fish hanging out of their mouth while an empty-handed fisherman waves his arms in frustration. There's a mysterious purpose: a cave scene in which are visible a giant keg and a large, flower/fan. There's the portrait of a man as mad/frightening/powerful/sexually charged: a Diaghilev-like figure in what looks to be a circus ring. There's a child-like dream play: the Brooklyn Bridge reaches to the Arc de Triomphe. The colors are equally neo-surrealistic/neo-fauve: siennas, purples, pinks, mixed blues. It's all rather lively, chaotic, sometimes disturbing, sometimes negligible—the best are like vivid, brief dreams.