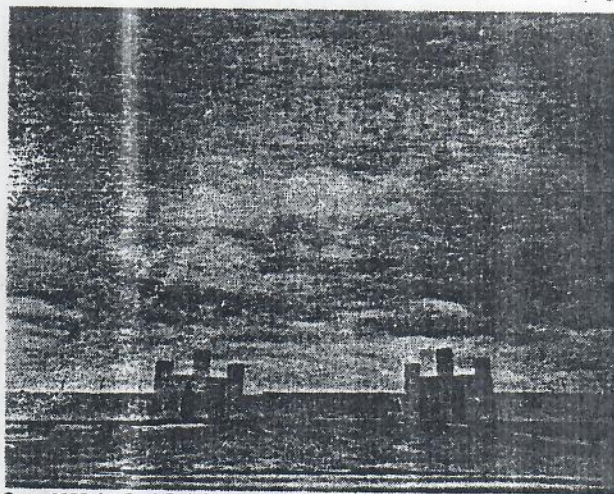


ART PICK OF THE WEEK

EVERYDAY DISTORTIONS; HABIB KHERADYAR; ROBERT KINGSTON

The premise uniting the five New York photographers in "Everyday Distortions" could be summed up as "Photographs lie through their teeth." No news there; the important thing is that the manipulated photographs *have* teeth — that such hoked-up camera work has a bite to it. To various extents the work here has that bite. Augusta Huggins Meyers' large, crinkled, very weird B&W images, combined with assemblage elements, take the hardest chomp. Ericka Beckman's color setups of manipulated toy figures glow with a gentler but more sinister wit. Carl Goldhagen's doory monochromatic industrial landscapes and objects prove alluring but still challenging; there is a tension between the grittiness of Goldhagen's subject matter, the crisp geometries of his compositions, and the oblique elegance of his textures. He has in fact transferred his photo images to metal plates, enhancing their surface sheen. Such textural sheen may seem to be the only thing connecting the similarly spare, handsome tableau-reliefs of Habib Kheradyar with Robert Kingston's much quirkier, more painterly canvases. But there are other connective aspects: the earthy (including mineral) tonalities dominating both artists' palettes, the iconographic focus of the compositions (overt in Kheradyar's work, subtle in Kingston's), the weightiness of the painting-objects themselves, and so forth. Kingston's formal language incorporates the circles, zigzags and tendrils of organic abstraction, while Kheradyar has refined his "marks" down to a set format which embeds a small globe in a drain like hole at the center of a stained or painted panel, a panel otherwise unmarked except for contrasting brushstrokes at the edges (and an occasional passing phrase in Farsi, Kheradyar's mother tongue). The



Gate, 1990, by Carl Goldhagen

variety of Kingston's shapes is exhilarating; and so is Kheradyar's ability to create elaborate variations on and within his rigid structure. "Everyday Distortions" at Boritzer/Gray, 3110 Main St., S.M., thru June 24; Habib Kheradyar at Bornstein, 1658 10th St., S.M., thru June 23; Robert Kingston at Bachofner, 926 Colorado Ave., S.M., thru June 30.

—Peter Frank