



Untitled etching by Donald Sutphin

ARTISTS AND GALLERIES

An American artist records vanishing Rome in watercolor

By John Hart

DAILY AMERICAN ART CRITIC

JONATHAN JANSON: Dei Leoni Gallery, 81 Via Margutta; through February 18.

Collectors of Roman scenes throughout the ages have always prized the 19th century watercolors by Franz Roessler, now mostly the property of the Italian government's art press, and a perennial tourist favorite in the postcard series "Vanished Rome." It turns out that the artist was actually Italian in spite of his Teutonic name, and this information was appropriately supplied by Jonathan Janson himself, who is a New Jersey-born American in spite of his Scandinavian name, and a 20th century watercolorist whose views of Rome are on a par with Roessler's.

Janson takes the same approach, carefully recording typical odds and bits that together make up the general quality of Rome at this point in time. Many of these will certainly be prized in the 21st century as records of an even more vanished Rome, the way Roessler's are today. Janson's Trastevere doorways in particular may survive but will be "restored" beyond recall; it's happening already. Within his modest price range, from 60,000 lire for small and 200,000 for the largest paintings, he is offering a real bargain; by the time these doorways are improved, only the tenants who can afford such addresses will be able to buy a rare original Janson.

CYNTHIA RICHARDS BORSA and DONALD SUTPHIN: USIS Gallery, 11 - a Via Bigli, MILAN; opening Tuesday, February 18, at 5:30 p.m.

Two American artists, longtime residents in Italy, will make a striking exhibit in Milan. Cynthia Borsa, who lives in Pavia, creates unique collages of scrap wood. Sutphin, a painter and graphic artist settled in Florence, will complement the wood-work with his symbolist woodcuts, printed by himself, and examples of his other graphic techniques.