

ART

PICK OF THE WEEK



I Tell You My Dream You Figure It Out, 1987, by Michelle Roberts.

"By Comix Touched" looks at three painter-draughtspeople who steal a beat or two off the funny papers. Least interesting is Seattle's **Dick Ibach**, a post-*Yellow Submarine* doodler whose corduroy color-patterning and cute images lack narrative oomph. Local **John Randolph Carter**'s drawings, admittedly more rudimentary, still have more force to them. Perhaps this is because his body of work is the only one shown here in retrospect, and the purely formal strengths of his line and composition make his wit apparent even when his visual jokes are obscure. In fact, Carter's more straightforward pictorial stuff downstairs is less clever than the loopy abstractions displayed mostly on the second floor. Angeleno **Michelle Roberts** boasts the most directly cartoony approach. Her premises can be droll indeed, with a dash of poignance for good measure (one picture is called *I Tell You My Dream, You Figure It Out*, another *If Memory Is Stored All Over Your Body, Why Couldn't He Remember Anything?*), and the sequential-frame format she uses to illustrate these premises hews close to that of the comic strip. If only Roberts' technique, yielding scratchy and extremely crude renditions of figures and objects in right-outta-the-tube colors, were not so grating. Oh well, if it's technique you want, drive over to Cal State Long Beach for a wallow in some nice old master figuration (especially several moving portraits by pre-Rembrandt Dutch painters) and 19th-century landscape and genre, including Millet, Daubigny, Jacque, and the German academic Peter Baumgartner, all from the Tweed Museum in Duluth. Baumgartner's *The Auction Sale*, a depiction of bourgeois types crawling all over an artist's studio in search of bargains and curios, is good for a few grins itself. "By Comix Touched" at the Long Beach Museum of Art, 2300 E. Ocean Blvd.; thru Sept. 11. "A Collection Rediscovered: European Paintings From the Tweed Museum of Art" at Cal State Long Beach University Art Museum, 1250 Bellflower Blvd.; thru Sept. 18.

—Peter Frank