

# Packing a wallop

Ethnicity, drawing & postmodernism are the drawing cards for some lively exhibits in and around Boston

by Tom Grabosky

## 'Drawing,'

a 6-artist exhibit, at the Akin Gallery, through Feb. 27.

Currently on view at Akin Gallery (207 South St., Boston) is a strong and diverse show of drawings by five gallery artists: Doug Anderson, Ellen Banks, Thaddeus Beal, David Kelley, Paul Palacios, and Nan Tull. Together, their work composes a healthy cross-section of current drawing trends. Particularly appealing are Doug Anderson's large mixed-media drawings, which feature confrontational passages of text that pack a real wallop, such as "three thousand years of in-breeding demonstrate the superiority of my race." The central image in this work is a pencil sketch of a skeleton dressed in papal robe and mitre being probed in the eye socket by an erect penis. Over the mitre, a dunce cap has been collaged.

Ellen Banks' vibrant geometric abstracts, based on the scores of great works of classical music, have a contemplative appeal which invites the eye to linger. So, too, the ink and dye drawings of Thad Beal are distinctly tantric, mesmerizing the viewer who surrenders to their dark, brooding cosmology. Both David Kelley and Paul Palacios seem to be on that great post-modern quest, the search for the "elegant doodle." Each, however, has developed a sufficiently individual style, placing his work a cut above the usual pop-art pretty picture. Rounding out the show are Nan Tull's bold pastels, which jagged triangular forms with a simple yellow disk of color that recurs in each of them.