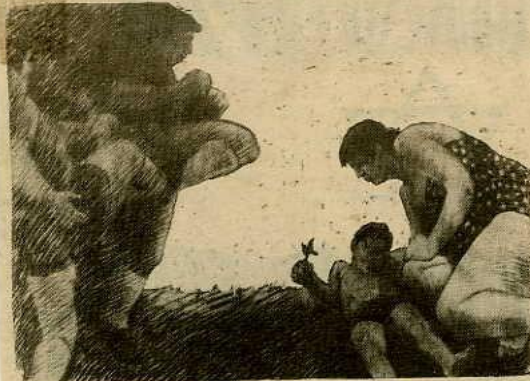


9.10.87 6010 23125



Asad Azi: mixed media on paper (Artifact Gallery, Tel Aviv).

ably her deepest inclination lies in a Faustian brotherhood rather than a Mediterranean one, a bias that is projected by the exclamatory mannerisms of her formally painted compositions and the almost surreptitious expressionist subjects that are trapped at the core of her art. (Bograshov Gallery, 60 Bograshov, Tel Aviv). Till Oct. 22.

ASAD AZI, one of our young figurative expressionists, a founding member of the Rega Group and a participant at the 42nd Venice Biennale in 1986, shows a series of works on paper in which his inventiveness with techniques and mixing media form as important an aspect of the product as does the content. Zinc white fields, charcoal and Panda oils on craft paper are harnessed to a set of recurring images: a pair of footballers, a mother and child reclining on a grassy knoll and a grotesque devil who appears sporadically with a bird of prey in tandem. Although Azi admits no concern for his subjects, only for his need to be free and independent so that expression and change become the driving forces of his art, there is no doubt he is absorbed with a reading of myths into his subjects: from hero-worship (soccer, Christ-child and Mephistopheles) to clearly identifiable, non-allegorical, mythological statements (minotaurs, centaurs, abductions and netherworld landscapes). Azi uses the exact composition several times yet creates interest in each by changing his painterly attitudes with regard to rendering, colour and style, a variety that runs the gamut from Van Gogh and Severini to the American Regionalist, Reginald Marsh. (Artifact Gallery, 43 Nachmani, Tel Aviv). Till Oct. 16. □