

ARTWEEK

west coast art news

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WEST COAST

David Rowe

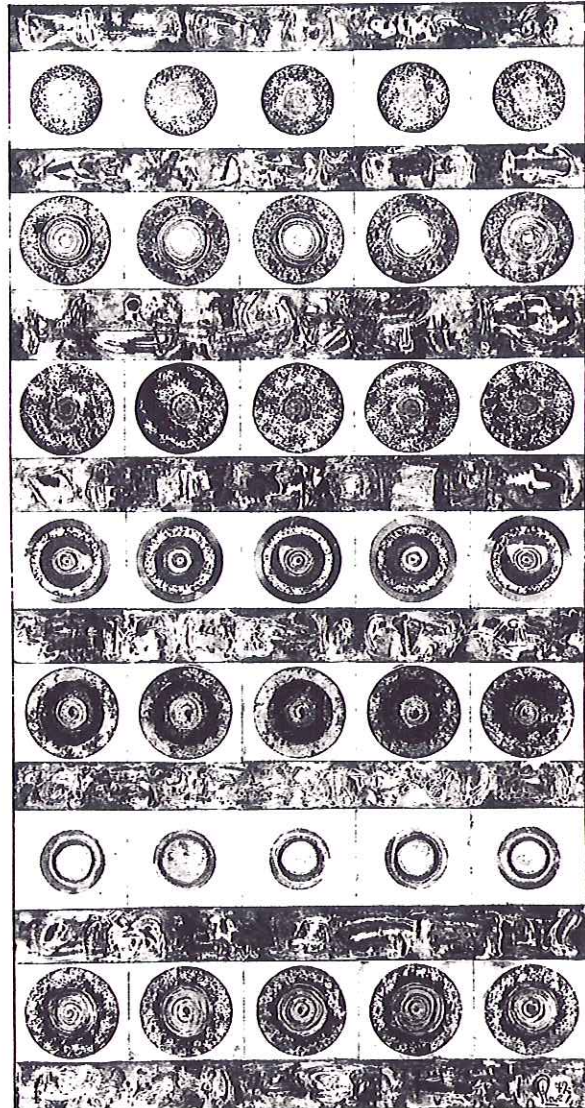
San Francisco

Carol Hagen

The European Gallery is currently having a show of works they describe as "copper paintings." The "paintings," more accurately, are collages produced through the application of chemically treated copper sheets with an occasional painted sheet added.

A wide variety of colors, tonalities and surface textures results from Rowe's techniques. Through the use of different chemicals for heating and corrosion the copper yields a limitless array of appearances and often assumes richly three-dimensional qualities. In conjunction with the chemical treatment, Rowe employs engraving and embossing to intensify his elaborately surfaced pieces. At times he paints a section with bright yellow or green enamel. The copper assemblages are all mounted on wood, which sometimes is also painted brightly and monochromatically and are lacquered to preserve the copper and prevent it from tarnishing and to enhance, again, the intensity of the veneer.

The relative success or interest of an individual piece seems to rest on the compositional arrangements of the copper leaves. Some of the collages are arranged geometrically and formally, and are rather elegant. Other compositions recall more organic, primitive shapes and also have a handsome appeal. Rowe's copper paintings would make for sure and attractive interior decoration, too, often pleasing to the eye and visually intriguing



DAVID ROWE: *MATRICES* 1972, painted copper, at the European Gallery, San Francisco

DAVID ROWE

COPPER PAINTINGS

Dec. 2 - Jan. 18



EUROPEAN GALLERY
3450 Sacramento St., San Francisco
[415] 931-7542
Gallery hours: Tues.-Sat., 11-6 pm

