

**THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER: MAY 10, 1998**  
By Victoria Donohoe Art Critic – Salon des Amis



Three Cuban Women, 36 x 42 inches

Dennis Auffy, exhibiting a painting series relating to a recent eight-week trip to Cuba, is basically a storyteller in his show at Salon des Amis. For these are not mere travel scenes, but mostly represent the daily crisis of experience for Cuban men, women and children on the brink of fleeing their land in homemade boats. Auffy headed for Cuba as though he were taking a lonely trek to find a way back to his own center, rather than aiming to collect material evidence of his having been there.



Beach Mambo, 22 x 27 inches

Thus his interactive group of figures on the beach painted in hot, intense, often garish colors, and sometimes including anxious Cubans together with American tourists, is one of the strongest and most particular features of his work. Auffy is quite able to capture what's quick and aware and also specific about human interaction. His is a

functional style that concentrates on getting it right. There's a certain innocence of approach, inasmuch as he's able to follow his feelings and put down with the brush what he sees, sometimes explicitly, and has apparently chosen to be untouched by the urgency of certain issues that confront painters of the human figure today. Consequently we respond to the flash of truth he gets rather to than to any formal beauty or profundity. The poignancy of this show is that besides the feel of a story being told, something is being expressed that's genuine.