

aLIST

SOFT FOCUS



CLOUDS OF PARTICLES: "SKIDDED OUT"

In appearance, and in reality, Daina Higgins' imagery emerges from a fog. As artist Steve Stelling points out in an essay written for the painter's January show at Rebecca Ibel's Miranova gallery, "Spray paint is not a syrupy liquid that gets manually smeared into shape with a brush. More like dew and dust, spray paint is a cloud of particles." In miniature scale, through extraordinary, elaborate layers of stencils, Higgins wrangles the clouds into soft landscapes infested by humans and industry.

The Columbus-born artist now makes her home and finds her subject matter in New York City. Higgins' side work in graffiti draws her eye to marked buildings, and to abandoned or desolate places that would make a suitable canvas. While showing off a rarely seen attribute of her medium—its delicacy—Higgins also wields it as a tool of flattery, like a diffusion lens. Instead of making the eye sore, junkyards, wire fences and street markers take on a beautiful shimmer.

Higgins' works share the Miranova gallery with cityscapes by Duncan Hannah. The exhibition opens with a reception on Friday, January 14, from 6-9 p.m. Call 291-2555 for details.

—MELISSA STARKER