

# A peep show of self-exploration

*John Steczynski's pen and ink*

**Self Reflections.** By John Steczynski. Skylight Gallery/Pate Poste, Boston. To benefit the AIDS Action Committee. Closed June 30.

## By Wickie Stamps

**J**ohn Steczynski's pen and ink series, recently on view at Skylight Gallery, offers a study in gentle male self-exploration. Pen strokes pull us through rooms bursting with Jungian imagery, where, like voyeurs, we watch Steczynski and his mirror-image — older, bearded and nude — go about "their" days. We can almost hear the muffled pad of bare feet or the tsk-tsk of a spat as this pair play with their aging puppy, pass each other on the stairs, or pause in shadowed doorways. Sharing burgundy and conversation with his alter-ego in *Self Reflections #11*, Steczynski guarantees us that dinner alone is never a possibility.

Conflicting furniture styles and blasphemous images form the backdrop to this quiet journey. Bony-elbowed New Age lamps zig zag while lion-pawed tables squat — all amidst symbols of Catholicism,

paganism and mysticism. Walls are broken by goat-headed panels and alcoves are announced by huge liturgical banners.

Nudging us to seek and savor our contradictions while traveling private pathways to self-healing, this showing of *Self-Reflections* was a special donation to the fight against AIDS. Watch for future exhibits by Steczynski, whose work has appeared in *Jesuit Spirit* in the Arts presentations and at Sufi Orders' Center for Esoteric Arts and Sciences as well as lesbian and gay exhibits. □