BODY MOVES SAFE SUN

SOLITARY ART URBAN BLIGHTS

The social isolationist themes of Hugh Steers's paintings, with their sumptuously rich colors, has led critics to describe his style as a mixture of Edward Hopper and Edgar Degas, Under the Volcano and Myra Breckinridge (Steers is Gore Vidal's nephew). Manhattan's Lower East Side is the inspiration for many of the artist's works, in which claustrophobic apartments draped with old-style furnishings are the backdrops for people struggling against social crises: AIDS, racism, and censorship. Steers, 28, will exhibit his paintings in a one-person show, May 9-June 1, at New York's Midtown Galleries.

Right, artist Hugh Steers with his painting "Fruit Bowl." Bleak portraits of loneliness and solitude define the artist's socially conscious work.



