

Making Rounds Of the Galleries

(Continued from Page 18)

runs face to face with the fact that for it to retain its metropolitan class, cultural and otherwise, it can't rest on past California traditions, dating back to a comfortable time when it was the biggest, most magnetic urban community hereabouts. In the year 1964 and thereafter, it must stay awake and work and fight, over and over again, to hold its eminence.

ON THE gallery round — Claus Bastian, Munich artist, shows a lively mind, hand and feeling, not consistent in quality but often fully effective, in his paintings and drawings at the Ed Lesser Galleries, 685 Sutter.

While he ranges from secular subjects (nudes in graphic media, musicians, bright carnival motifs) to religious, his most striking group of works are his "Stations of the Cross" drawings.

They are packed with drama and sorrow, and in a freshly personal spirit recall the rugged mixtures of harsh characters and spiritual agony of the German old masters.

Several of Bastian's simpler romantic landscapes are

very agreeable. There is flaming charm in some lively dance impressions. At various times his pictures either gain or lose, as the individual case may be, from his nervous free touch.

FIGURATIVE PAINTINGS
by William H. M. Weber, the Galerie de Tours at 559 Sutter, hang in a balance which is sometimes uneasy, between thoughtful realism and suggestions of haunting magic-realism.

Weber was born in Pennsylvania, and his recollections of black - garbed, bearded Amishmen are especially interesting, for instance his couple of hagglers nose to nose. His hints of fantasy enter even into the prosaic Amish field, in his enigmatic view of five guitarists.

Always a capable painter, Weber runs off the artistic track here and there in nudes or character studies that are mainly slick. His capability turns to better account in his "Bird Cage Vendor," his group of assorted heads ("I'll be Judge, I'll be Jury") and the lyrical topic of a boy swimmer in a novel posture at a pond's edge, while a bird wings just past him.