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Arts & Letters, page 14

GALLERY-GOING

By *JENNIFER FISHBEIN*

If you're still in the mood for brilliant colors, head two blocks west to the Charles Seliger (b. 1926) show at Michael Rosenfeld Gallery. Versed in natural history, biology, and physics, Mr. Seliger has been creating abstractions for almost 60 years. His 23 new paintings on view suggest organelles and microscopic structures.

Violet and green hues dominate here, resonating against their silver frames and the deep purple of the gallery walls. "Crystal Garden" (2001) presents clusters of frothy purple, mint green, and violet bubbles that would look spray painted if not for their delicate detail.

All the pieces present variations on the froth motif. Sometimes Mr. Seliger exploits the bubbles to experiment with form; at other times, he experiments with color. In "Sylvan Chamber" (2002), he clumps bubbles together to create amorphous olive-green and red forms set against a background of mint green and yellow froth. "Splendor" (2001) displays some of the funkiest color contrasts, with green and light blue bubbles setting off a purple and rusty background.

"Charles Seliger: Chaos to Complexity" at Michael Rosenfeld Gallery until May 3 (24 West 57 Street, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, 212-247-0082). Prices: \$14,000-\$24,000.

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