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Art in Review

By GRACE GLUECK
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Richmond Burton
Cheim & Read
521 West 23d Street
Chelsea -- Through Oct. 11

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Lively, close-packed organic forms that seem to break out of an invisible grid make all-over patterns in Richmond Burton's scintillating canvases. In the triptych "Frequent Flyer," ovoid, circular and leaflike shapes, smartly colored in ocher, dark browns and touches of blue, jostle and push one another on a bright white ground. The forms occasionally swell into larger black and white nuclei that cleverly punctuate the otherwise nonstop composition.

In a smaller work, "The Signature Painting," more liquid forms in light, glowing browns with touches of blue and white flow vertically down the canvas in a rich tapestry effect. Trained as an architect, Mr. Burton started painting architectonic structures by means of compass and straight-edge, then turned to free-hand brushing. His current paintings are influenced by the repetitive but unique shapes of crystals and plant cells, and also by the work of Lee Krasner, but from these sources he has made a fresh and appealing synthesis. GRACE GLUECK

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