

NEW YORK

ART REVIEW

Three-Sentence Reviews: John Bradford's Electricity, David Hockney's Ephemeral Color, and 11 More Shows

By Jerry Saltz

Steve DiBenedetto

Derek Eller Gallery
300 Broome Street

Steve DiBenedetto's show of large-scale paintings with their heavily worked glowing surfaces depicting begrimed biomorphic yurt shapes, larval configurations, one-eyed beings, bladders metamorphosing into tubular appendages, and crystal forms all amount to a breakthrough for this 60-year-old. Especially for those of us who've always followed and admired his painterly topologies but often felt confined by and subject to a narrow index of repeating subjects, like helicopters and octopi. Here, DiBenedetto goes full William Baziotes — channeling the great under-sung Abstract Expressionist who specialized in fuzzy fields and mythological-like beings contained in fields of flushed color — and gives us great fiery paintings colonized by creatures and forms with effluvia, faces, feet, head dresses, and resemble oxidizing coral reefs of original vision, with little hints of curving helicopter blades and mollusk-like octopus legs.