

## Art Reviews

By DAVID PAGEL  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

**Intergalactic:** Imagine falling asleep watching an animated cartoon about meteor showers, dreaming of the far-off places they came from and then waking up to find yourself surrounded by a roomful of oddly shaped, playfully colored objects that combine elements of both. The experience might be fantastic, even trippy, but it would probably pale in comparison to seeing **Geoffrey Allen's** five new wall sculptures at Post Wilshire Gallery.

Each of the hefty yet whimsical works in the artist's solo debut consists of a sturdy metal armature to which he has affixed precisely cast lumps of pastel-tinted Hydrocal (a light, quick-drying type of plaster). Often, as in "Oppathy," "Mation" and "Freakproof," these smooth, strangely configured forms resemble miniature landscapes—like those made by model train hobbyists, yet unlike any-

thing found on Earth.

Atop such idiosyncratic bases, Allen has poured, dripped and squeezed thousands of puddles, droplets and squirts of watered-down Hydrocal. These frosting-like dollops recall partially melted candies, semi-dissolved capsules and cartoon worms.

Sometimes they seem to be animated characters scrambling hyperactively over the surfaces of the sculptures. At other times, however, it's impossible to disentangle their writhing motion from that of their bases.

So overrun with squiggling visual energy is "Swarmdish" that you can't be sure if there is solid ground beneath its interwoven

worms. Similarly, the structure of "Orris That Binds" mimics that of Jupiter, the main difference being that the sculpture consists entirely of rings swirling around one another in loopy orbit.

Deftly combining the optical dynamics of abstract painting with the three-dimensional physicality of sculpture, Allen's asteroid-inspired art playfully demonstrates that viewers don't need to leave the gallery to go on intergalactic trips. Traveling through the imagination is sufficient—and a lot less difficult.

• *Post Wilshire, 6130 Wilshire Blvd., (323) 932-1822, through Dec. 18. Closed Sundays and Mondays.*