

GALLERIES-CHELSEA

MICHAEL BENSON

Benson's photographs of the sun and the planets have been tweaked for maximum wow effect. Digitally constructed from dozens of images taken by robotic cameras on space probes during the past fifty years, the finished pictures are so polished they're dreamlike more Disney than NASA. Uranus, a milky-blue marble, floats in a black void surrounded by wire-thin rings; the sun, spitting fire, appears ready to explode; and the Earth hovers into partial view, a dust storm swirling through the Sahara. Benson's brand of hyperreality is super-slick but hard to resist. Through March 26. (Hasted Kraeutler, 537 W. 24th St. 212-627-0006.)