



Upchurch, Michael. "4 art exhibitions to see at Seattle-area galleries in December," [SeattleTimes.com](http://SeattleTimes.com) (December 8, 2016).

# The Seattle Times



Michael Schultheis, "Discovering Infinitesimal Breaths" (2016), acrylic on canvas. (unknown)

There's plenty to see at Traver, Winston Wachter and Davidson galleries, plus a closing-soon reminder about "30 Americans" at Tacoma Art Museum.

Cast-glass masks that rock to life. Swirling paintings that take their cue from mathematics....

There's some heady stuff in the galleries this month. Here's a look at it:

## **Michael Schultheis – "Bouquets, Luminaries, Menageries: Stories Told in Calculus"**

In his acrylics on canvas, Seattle artist Michael Schultheis, a former software writer for Microsoft, scatters orderly mathematical formulae among swirling rings and voids of color. He also cites mathematicians (Pythagorus, Leibniz) and artists (Dürer, Sol LeWitt) in his titles.

But you don't need an advanced degree in science or art history to appreciate these pieces. They operate on a color-drunk gut level as well. In his artist's statement, he says he's drawing on higher math to "tell stories about how people make connections with each other." But the paintings also work as cosmic carnival rides through distant cloud nebulae.

Almost all give you a sense of careening past pi signs and Venn diagrams into yawning abysses of blue or yellow or green. "Polar Treasures" surrounds a turquoise radiance with messy loops, threads and splashes of paint, about to slide into a single irresistible gravity field. "Discovering Infinitesimal Breaths" and "Gold Limaçons for Pythagorus" do something similar.