

ART & ANTIQUES

Rebecca Rutstein mixes art and science

By R.B. STRAUSS

Art and science sometimes have been at odds. Artist Rebecca Rutstein is attempting to reconcile these two disciplines in *Shifting Images*, her first solo show at Bridgette Mayer Gallery, 709 Walnut St., just off Washington Square.

The show features paintings and collages with scientific themes. In some paintings, honeycomb shapes bring to mind bees as well as graphs of molecules. A volcano for Ms. Rutstein is just a big pimple on the face of the planet, a clogged pore about to burst. Her palette runs the gamut, while her brushwork is textured and measured. These are beautiful paintings that combine

old school abstract grounding with new school figuration.

Color is worked and reworked, layered and sampled, cut and pasted. Works suggest parallels between plumbing and our digestive systems, between the way continents shift and the way our lives do. Her maps are anatomical charts of society at large; figure and line form grids of design.

Rebecca Rutstein arrived on the local art scene with a bang some years back. *Shifting Images* is undoubtedly her best exhibition yet.

Shifting Images runs through March 23. For information, log on to www.mayerart-consultants.com.

