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Deep See Poems by Edwin Schlossberg (Ronald Feldman Gallery, 31 Mercer Street): As the title of the show will indicate, Edwin Schlossberg is a poet — someone who uses words in a distinctively ordered way — who is not content with the traditional stillness and passivity of the printed word. His poems are about seeing, about knowledge and about our ways of ordering and categorizing our perceptions. Some of them are abstract, in that they are made up of lists and hierarchies and alternative extremes. But the abstraction does not exclude wit, and one of the most strict and severe of his poems has for its first and last lines the one word "soup."

If these poems are at home in an art gallery, it is because they are made in such a way that they gleam, glow, shine and look back at us. Color plays a part in this, and so does freehand drawing. In fact, the poems have a second life, one that would be agreeable to look at even if we didn't know the language in which they are written. Some of them do, as a matter of fact, incorporate runic signs of an indecipherable kind. (Through June 15.)

—
John Russell