

Tan, Dion, "VIDEO: The NY Times Reinterpreted by Fred Tomaselli at James Cohan," *Blouin ArtInfo*, May 6, 2014. Accessed online: <http://www.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1032190/video-the-ny-times-reinterpreted-by-fred-tomaselli-at-james>

VIDEO: The NY Times Reinterpreted by Fred Tomaselli at James Cohan

By Dion Tan



The front page of the New York Times gets a psychedelic touch in Fred Tomaselli's new exhibition "Current Events" at James Cohan Gallery.

Tomaselli is most well-known for his psychotropic mixed-media paintings, where he combines unorthodox materials such as images of medicinal herbs (Yes, we're talking about weed here) and prescription pills in an almost infinite collage sheathed in resin. His latest works, however, take a more sociological approach by drawing and collaging over a photo du jour from The Times. The result of this "collaboration" is a series of over 30 works, eight large-scale paintings, and a new publication released by Prestel, *Fred Tomaselli: The Times*.

"To me the news is just another set of subjective circumstances and reality," said Tomaselli when Blouin ARTINFO popped by his Bushwick Studio. "In a funny way, I started to think of myself as just another editor in this team of people."

The collages on the photos are more than just trippy kaleidoscopes; they are Tomaselli's reverberations of what they convey and the surrounding context. In works like *After November 19, 2013 (2014)*, the aftermath of the tornado outbreak in Illinois inspired Tomaselli to photomontage a male cardinal bird with its head spiraling a tornado cloud of cutout eyes.

"This idea of circles from the minute to the very expansive are not just part of the bird's eyes themselves, but the reproduction process of printing," Tomaselli said.

"*Current Events*" is open now through June 14 at James Cohan Gallery, 533 West 26th Street New York, NY.