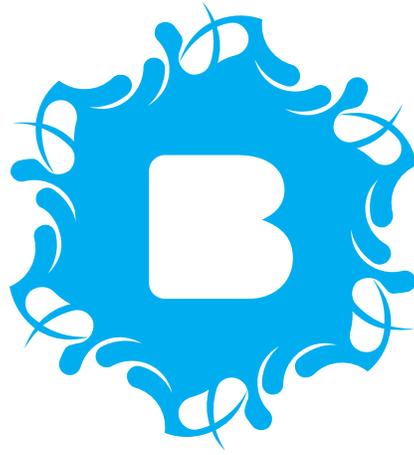


Press Release



September 2010

Brooklyn-Based Artist Fred Tomaselli to Have Solo Exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum

Media Preview Thursday, October 7, 5 to 6 p.m.

Fred Tomaselli, a mid-career survey featuring the artist's two-dimensional works from the late 1980s to the present, will be on view at the Brooklyn Museum from October 8, 2010, through January 2, 2011. This exhibition focuses on the trajectory of Tomaselli's career, from early experiments with photograms and collage to recent paintings and prints that combine abstraction with allusions to current events. *Fred Tomaselli* includes more than forty artworks and will feature collages and paintings created specifically for the Brooklyn Museum's presentation.

Tomaselli's work reveals a uniquely American vision that celebrates the psychedelic and the alternative. Growing up near the desert in southern California, Tomaselli was influenced by both the manufactured reality of theme parks and the music counterculture of Los Angeles in the 1970s and '80s. His distinctive melding of these influences forms an updated, personalized, folk-driven vision of the American West.

An avid and idiosyncratic collector who is interested in botany and ornithology, Tomaselli amasses prescription pills, along with images of plants, flowers, birds, and anatomical illustrations carefully cut from books. Pulling from this visual archive, he creates richly decorated surfaces that are composed of hundreds of found images. Combining these unusual materials and paint under layers of clear epoxy resin, Tomaselli's highly stylized artworks merge the printed or photographic image with areas painted by hand.

A few of the earlier paintings in the exhibition reference Minimalism, such as *Black and White All Over* (1993), in which Tomaselli laboriously organized rows and columns of prescription pills. Other early works experimented with the photographic, like *Portrait of John* (1995), in which Tomaselli used a photogram, an image made by placing objects directly on the surface of a photo-sensitive material to create an astrological map loosely based on the drug history of his subject. Other highlights include *Avian Flower Serpent* (2006), a large, intimidating bird clutching a snake against an exploding background of painted and collaged imagery; *Super Plant* (1994), an image of the tree of life painstakingly created with plant matter; and *Untitled* (2000), a depiction of Adam and Eve being expelled from heaven with a large psychedelic nucleus radiating in the background.

Brooklyn Museum

200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238-6052
T (718) 638-5000 F (718) 501-6134
www.brooklynmuseum.org

The two artworks specifically created for this exhibition, *Night Music for Raptors* and *Starling*, are large-scale painting collages that continue Tomaselli's recent exploration of individual birds. The former represents an owl composed of hundreds of cut-out eyes while the latter depicts the head of a starling set against an exuberantly brushed background. Also included in this exhibition for their U.S. debut is a group of twelve recently created works on paper. With gouache and collage, Tomaselli transforms the front page of *The New York Times* and uses it as a backdrop for his pictorial interventions.

Fred Tomaselli emerged in the California art scene creating installations and performance art in the early 1980s. In 1986, he moved to New York, where he was one of the pioneering artists of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. His work has been shown extensively worldwide, in both galleries and museums, from the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York to the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin. He continues to live and work in Brooklyn.

This exhibition is organized and toured by the Aspen Art Museum and The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College. The Brooklyn Museum presentation is coordinated by Eugenie Tsai, John and Barbara Vogelstein Curator of Contemporary Art, Brooklyn Museum.

Bloomberg is the presenting sponsor.

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The exhibition has also received support from Sotheby's; Glenstone; James Cohan Gallery; Susan and Leonard Feinstein Foundation; White Cube, London; Amanda and Glenn Fuhrman; Amy and John Phelan; Mickey Cartin; Greg Feldman and Melanie Shorin; Scott and Meg Mueller; and other generous donors.

The Village Voice is media sponsor.

The Brooklyn Museum is the third and final venue for *Fred Tomaselli*. The exhibition originated in the Aspen Art Museum (August 1–October 11, 2009) and then went to The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York (February 6–June 6, 2010).

Brooklyn Museum Extended Hours: Beginning Wednesday, October 6, the Brooklyn Museum will open to the public eight additional hours a week and will open each day at 11 a.m.

- Wednesdays 11-6
- Thursdays and Fridays 11-10
- Saturdays and Sundays 11-6

The Museum will continue to present *Target First Saturdays*, its popular free evening of art and entertainment, when it remains open until 11 p.m. the first Saturday of each month except September.

Press Contact:

Sally Williams, Public Information Officer, (718) 501-6330, sally.williams@brooklynmuseum.org

Adam Husted, Media Relations Manager, (718) 501-6331, adam.husted@brooklynmuseum.org

Marcus Romero, Associate Media Relations Manager, (718) 501-6354, marcus.romero@brooklynmuseum.org

GENERAL INFORMATION**Admission:**

Contribution \$10; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$6. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; first Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B41, B69, B48.

On-site parking available.