

the village VOICE

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ShortList

PHOTO

DAVID MAISEL The subject of Maisel's six large, square color photographs is not at all apparent on first or even second glance. Though the pictures appear to record aspects of the natural world—dried blood? spilled ink? flayed rawhide? mold?—there's something in their scale and perspective that belies all these guesses. That's because they're all aerial views of an arid, unpopulated valley in southeastern California, where a long-drained lake bed had eroded into a toxic salt flat. With virtually no landscape markers, Maisel's chaotic, abstract, and weirdly beautiful images prompt us to meditate on the nature of representation—and the representation of nature. **THROUGH SATURDAY**, Von Lintel Gallery, 555 West 25th Street, 212-242-0599. (Aletti)