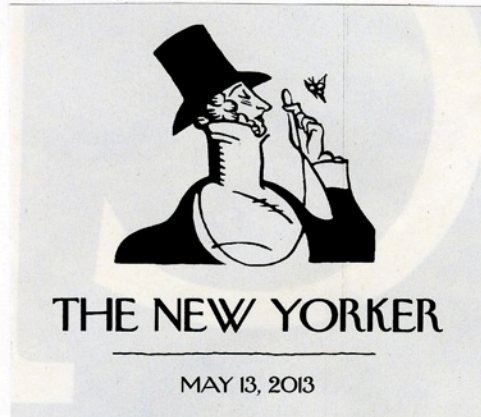


Thomas Erben Gallery



GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

GALLERIES—CHELSEA

NEWSHA TAVAKOLIAN

The Iranian photographer makes an impressive U.S. debut, at thirty-two, with large-scale color portraits of friends and neighbors from her high-rise apartment building in Tehran. Tavakolian's solitary subjects, also in their thirties, are seated before a picture window in her living room. Although the tables, chairs, beds, and other props change, the view of stark window walls at dusk provides an unvaryingly sombre and confining backdrop. Whether anguished, anxious, or simply lost in thought, all of these men and women appear suspended, stunned, as if their future were as limited as their view outside. Through May 11. (Erben, 526 W. 26th St. 212-645-8701.)

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