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Surprise: The Upper East Side Turns Experimental (for Art)

by Jason Farago
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Dominique Lévy The Swiss powerhouse is the bluest of blue-chip dealers, but since opening her new gallery in 2012 Ms. Lévy has discreetly made room for young artists too. On the top floor of this sturdy townhouse on Madison at East 73rd Street (which she shares with another dealer, the puckish Frenchman Emmanuel Perrotin) is an exhibition by the young German artist Hans-Christian Lotz. It's a nature versus culture duel, in which wall-mounted vitrines stuffed with wood shavings face off with a low-fi computer hookup, which the artist has programmed to scrape headlines and transcripts from National Public Radio. A ponderous handout essay – yes, philosophy hipsters, “object-oriented ontology” has made it to Madison Avenue – contrasts sharply with the straight talk of the NPR feed: airstrikes, hurricanes, protest, disease, Trump.