

**ArtReview:** 'Art Life Paris. The second in a new series of multiple-show city reviews take on contemporary art in the French capital', by Louise Darblay, january & february 2017

## Art Life Paris

### The second in a new series of multiple-show city reviews takes on contemporary art in the French capital

#### From provocative to quaint – a clean breast

Over at Almine Rech, I run into another exhibition that is grounded in a moment of art history. On show here are works by late American Pop artist Tom Wesselmann. Largescale, freestanding irregularly shaped

canvases populate the gallery, in which blown-up dicks, feet, mouths and tits are presented in layered arrangements alongside domestic objects from the bedroom (picture frames, tissue box, alarm clock, etc) like some erotic still life. The show takes its cue from a 1970 exhibition by the artist at New York's Sidney Janis Gallery that gravitated around his *Bedroom Tit Box* (1968–70), a framed box inserted into the wall that featured fully dimensioned, sculpted and painted replicas of a wooden vase, ashtray, orange, lotion bottle and box of tissues – and a woman's breast: that of a performer bending over the box behind a fake wall. Although the work may have seemed provocative in 1970, in our days of omnipresent pornography it feels slightly quaint – especially given that, on my visit, the 'live' breast has been replaced by a wooden replica.



Tom Wesselmann, *Bedroom Tit Box*, 1968-70  
wood, pil, acrylic, assemblage and live tit, 15 x 30 x 22 cm  
Photo: Rebecca Fanuele. Courtesy the estate of the artist and  
Almine Rech Gallery, Paris.