

VISUAL ARTS

If you go

**Chris Doyle: The Fluid:** Reception 4-6 p.m. Saturday. Through Nov. 1, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday. Catharine Clark Gallery, 248 Utah St., S.F. (415) 399-1439. [www.cclarkgallery.com](http://www.cclarkgallery.com).

**Chris Doyle:** Video awash in vivid, watery sensations

By Kimberly Chun

The natural woodland world, from its treetops to its watery depths, gets a shot of pop patterning and neon-bright coloration in Brooklyn artist Chris Doyle's recent video "Bright Canyon." What better habitat to unveil the piece than amid the bright lights of the big city — namely Times Square in New York City? In July, the work inspired by the Palisades around the Hudson River was given a daily run, minutes before midnight, across the electronic billboards in the square.

"In some ways, it was truly overwhelming," Doyle says now of the video, which will appear in "The Fluid." "In one sense, there's no way to prepare yourself for the scale of it and to see the piece on so many screens. You can't really test it, and you have to imagine it as a fractured viewing experience, and as a result, I was bowled over by the response from friends but also strangers."

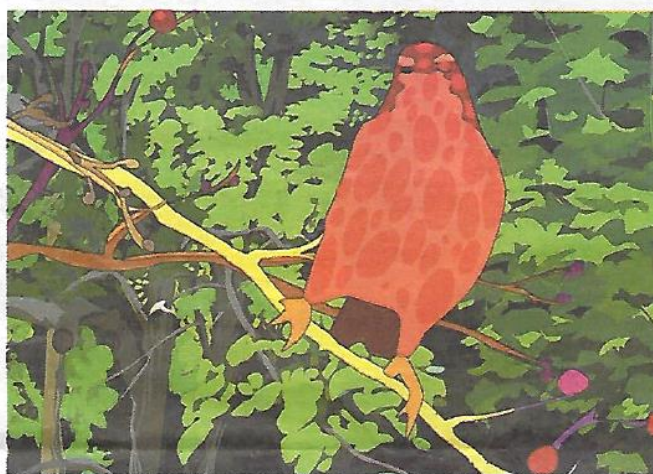
We spoke to Doyle from New York as he worked on his new four-screen video installation, the fourth of five based on the "Course of Empire" series by Hudson River painter Thomas Cole.

**Q: What was the genesis of this latest video?**

**A:** When I started the project, it was very close to the crash, then the recession, and the sense of the collapse of empire was all around us.

**Q: Water is at the center of the show, which includes drawings of frozen waterfalls and paintings made with Hudson River water.**

**A:** It's so interesting to me, visiting San Francisco all the time. The experience of water here is



Images courtesy Chris Doyle

A still from Brooklyn artist Chris Doyle's "Bright Canyon" video.



Chris Doyle's "Falls III" (2014).

so different from that of the East Coast. Things are so dry in California, and there's this idea of drought, in contrast to the Hurricane Sandy experience that has immersed so many of us on the East Coast.

**Q: What did you learn, diving into this subject?**

**A:** I became very interested in

the way that culture and cultural attitudes shape landscape. In Thomas Cole's time, there was a real reverence for what I call "the savage." He thought of nature as pure, untouched by man, and it was a wonderful thing. Our attitude now, in terms of drought and flood, is that it has apocalyptic overtones.

**Q: What is your video-making process like?**

**A:** There are a couple techniques: "Bright Canyon" is taken from images I shot along the Hudson River and animals I shot in Central Park. It's a constant flow between working abstractly and in a more realistic mode. I think the last in the series will be more connected to the hand, more expressing on paper and scanning images into the computer. I want this collision between the handmade and technology.

*Kimberly Chun dries her eyes in the Bay Area. E-mail: [96hours@sfgate.com](mailto:96hours@sfgate.com) Twitter: [@kimberlychun](https://twitter.com/kimberlychun)*

SF

248 Utah Street  
SF, CA 94103  
+ 415 399 1439

NY

313 W 14th Street 2F  
New York, NY  
By appointment only

WEB

[www.cclarkgallery.com](http://www.cclarkgallery.com)