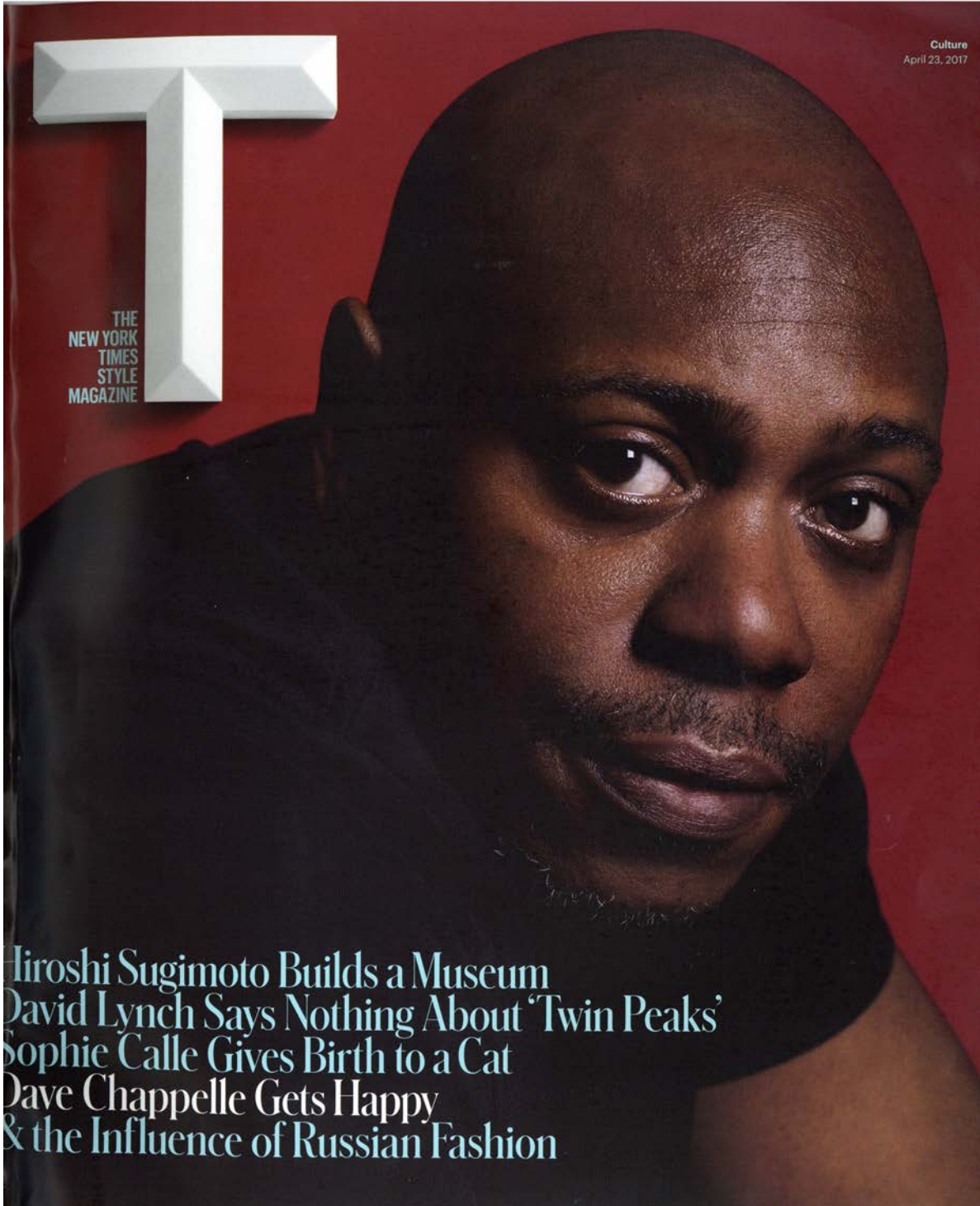


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M. H. Miller



Salad Days

Several years ago, Julia Sherman started inviting other artists over to share recipes. At first, this was merely a hobby, and perhaps a way of avoiding her studio, but then she turned it into a popular blog. Now it's a book: "Salad for President: A Cookbook Inspired by Artists," featuring recipes from Tauba Auerbach (shredded brussels sprouts with almonds and shaved apples), Laurie Anderson (roasted eggplant dip served with herbs) and William Wegman (deconstructed charoset on toast). Why salad, in particular? "People could be amazing artists and mediocre cooks," Sherman says, "but most people have a salad they're proud of." There's a long history of contemporary artists using food as a medium. (An obvious historical reference for Sherman is Alison Knowles, the Fluxus artist who organized the 1962 performance "Make a Salad," which was exactly what it sounds like.) Sherman believes artists' knack for salad is often entwined with their studio practice: "They think intuitively about plating and this idea that there's an invisible line where it's like, 'I've gone too far.'" Robert Irwin shares his own thoughts in the book's foreword, even though, Sherman adds, "He only drinks Coke and eats McDonald's, which is a sad reality for me." — M. H. MILLER

