

# O C U L A

## New York Arts Week: Five Exhibitions Not to Miss By Brienne Walsh — March 01, 2016



Rochelle Goldberg: The Plastic Thirty  
SculptureCenter  
44-19 Purves St, Long Island City, NY  
24 January – 4 April, 2016

In a bold move the **SculptureCenter** has announced that all of its 2016 solo shows will feature projects exclusively by female artists. It won't make up for years of exclusion from the art world, but it's certainly a boon for artists who benefit from the publicity surrounding such a curatorial statement.

The female artist showing at the Long Island-city based stalwart during New York Arts Week is **Rochelle Goldberg**, who was born in 1984 in Vancouver, and currently lives in New York. Rochelle Goldberg: The Plastic Thirty is her first solo institutional exhibition. And it is deserved. Her incredible creations, which are made from living and synthetic materials such as chia seeds, crude oil, ceramic and steel, look less like static artworks than they do invasions by alien species that have come to live in the various hidden coves and crumbling spaces of SculptureCenter's industrial galleries. For Every Living Carcass I (2016) is a molten skeleton of a fantastical fish that could easily serve as a set prop in some forgotten land in Game of Thrones. Original Spill (2016) is a steel and glass wreck laid out between the walls of an entirely darkened corridor, and lit from below as if it came from some primordial star system. Try Again I, II, III, IV, V (2016) betrays a wry humor, showing a magic eight ball that displays messages such as 'Still choking try again', or 'You need a body of water'.

The show evokes both the beginning of the world and the end of it. It is an apocalyptic dream that's surprisingly beautiful, and one arguably best seen at the end of the Arts Week, when you're exhausted from the sheer magnitude of works you've seen at the various fairs, galleries, and institutions. —[O]