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Art Gallery Shows to See in April

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This week in Newly Reviewed, Max Lakin covers N. Dash's mysterious scraps of cotton, Vaclav Pozarek's spare, witty sculptures and Martin Wong's Popeyes.

QUEENS

Pat Oleszko

Through April 27. SculptureCenter, 44-19 Purves Street, Long Island City, Queens; 718-361-1750, sculpture-center.org.



“Pat Oleszko: Fool Disclosure,” on view at SculptureCenter. Pat Oleszko, via David Peter Francis, New York, and SculptureCenter, New York; Photo by Charles Benton

The veteran New York performance artist Pat Oleszko fills space with aplomb. You can't miss her giant inflatable horn-blower sculpture in the 2026 Whitney Biennial.

A concurrent career survey at SculptureCenter in Queens features her deep pantheon of bombastic characters, crafted from ripstop nylon over the past four decades. Puffed-up witches, popes, generals and businessmen flub around the main hall, while a bushel of inflatable missiles from 2007, embroidered with puns like "Miss Fit" and "Miss Take," occupies the center.

Oleszko's creations hold a room, but these aren't just sculptures: They're the props and costumes for her enlightened take on burlesque street theater. Downstairs, past stuffed fabric outfits for a bodybuilder and a stripper-in-a-cake, the nooks and vaults in the building's industrial basement display zany costumes, memorabilia and films documenting the artist's appearances onstage and on the sidewalk.

One choice example, from a projected selection of Oleszko's films and videos, has the artist in a padded red clown outfit trying to quench the puffy orange flames of an inflatable Bronx apartment building, wagging in a rubble-filled lot. She's sounding the alarm for whoever's listening. *TRAVIS DIEHL*