



APRIL 2026

ART

Pat Oleszko: *Fool Disclosure*

SculptureCenter, 44-19 Purves Street
Jan 29 – Apr 27

A little over thirty years ago, Mike Kelley confessed: “What I dislike about a lot of contemporary artists is that they want to be hipsters, they’re not willing to be fools.” Surely, he wasn’t thinking of Pat Oleszko. Like Kelley, Oleszko grew up in Motown-meets-punk-rock Detroit and attended the University of Michigan, where the Weathermen were her neighbors. Based in New York City since 1970, her singular, six-decade body of work encompasses costumes, sculptures, films, installations, and numerous large-scale, hand-sewn inflatables, which have appeared across parties, protests, parades, burlesque houses, and even the Vatican. *Fool Disclosure*, her overdue solo survey of serious play, includes a little bit of everything to showcase her razor-sharp humor, wordplay, and wit—from the flamboyant inflatables filling SculptureCenter’s cathedral-like ground floor, to the hats, garments, videos, posters, and vitrines of printed ephemera downstairs in the crypt. I recommend picking up the exhibition’s accompanying leaflet for which Oleszko has penned her own punningly and cunningly detailed artwork descriptions in—wait for it—“her own write.”

—Lauren O’Neill-Butler