

Pat Oleszko  
*Pat's Imperfect Present Tense*

June 8, 2024-July 20, 2024  
opening June 8, 6-8pm

David Peter Francis is pleased to present *Pat's Imperfect Present Tense*, New York-based artist Pat Oleszko's first exhibition with the gallery, and first solo show in New York City since 1990. The exhibition re-surfaces pivotal performances, inflatables, and videos from 1972 to the current day, foregrounding the artist's life-long endeavor towards absurdity.

Working in disregard for any and all divide, Oleszko's practice bleeds into everything— this survey of works pulls largely from decades-deep hordes of worn-sculptures from the artist's extensive oeuvre. These costumes appear as the attractors in performances as well as characters in her video works, further seducing the viewer through a rigorous and developed language of pun populating Pat's planet.

Oleszko arrived at using herself as her armature early on. The artist described a "eureka moment" following consistent inevitable collapses of her early sculptural work, realizing that the body could be used as a platform to stand up to the challenge, where no proper welds were necessary. Her use of her body as the work's conduit emerged equally from her own performance origins as a burlesque dancer. Works like *The Handmaiden* (1975) instrumentalize humor, poking and prodding while simultaneously situating itself amongst feminist critiques of power and sexual dynamics— the exaggeration of our cultural obsession (and fear) surrounding sex. In the same way that a garment or costume is a holder for the body, the self as vessel provides fertile ground for play and/or debasement of human civilization as a whole, whatever the particular *butt* of the joke may be.

Following her awarding of the Rome Prize in 1998, Oleszko spent a night in jail for the very work for which she was awarded: her role as spectacular sculptress provocateur— this time incarnated as *The Nincompope*, a facsimile of the papacy paraded through the streets of Vatican City to the ire of the *polizia*. Through Pat's play, we can begin to grasp a consequence of comedy—the result is either neglected entirely or is placed at the forefront. It could be a failure to assimilate or, it could be freedom.

Pat Oleszko (b. 1947, Detroit) received her BFA from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Since the early 1970s, she has staged exhibitions and performances at institutions such as Museum of Modern Art (New York), The Kitchen (New York), Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), Performance Space 122 (New York), Museum of Contemporary Craft (now Museum of Art and Design, New York), P.S. 1 (Queens), Lincoln Center (New York), Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston), Civitella Ranieri (Umbertide, Italy), Neuberger Museum (Purchase), Rauschenberg Foundation (Captiva), National Museum of Women in the Arts (Washington D.C.), and King Tut's Wah Wah Hut (New York); amongst others. She was the recipient of the Rome Prize in 1998, and the Guggenheim Fellowship in 1990. Oleszko lives in works in New York City.

Main Gallery:



**Pat Oleszko**

*The Handmaiden*, 1975

fabric, fiberfill, styrofoam, rhinestones

78 x 56 x 49 inches (198.1 x 142.2 x 124.5 cm)

(PO101)



**Pat Oleszko**

*The Coat of Arms*, 1972

fabric, fiberfill, styrofoam

82 x 33 x 30 inches (208.3 x 83.8 x 76.2 cm)

(PO100)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Pat Pot*, 2014

paper, cardboard, fabric

12 x 12 x 12 inches (30.5 x 30.5 x 30.5 cm)

(PO122)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Carousel*, 2016

paper, cardboard

25 x 18 x 16 inches (63.5 x 45.7 x 40.6 cm)

(PO121)



**Pat Oleszko**

*DisPlaying Cards*, 2014

paper, cardboard

8 x 14 x 16 inches (20.3 x 35.6 x 40.6 cm)

(PO120)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Knee-o-Fashism: Wendy Wear-With-All and Her Sole Sister, Ms. Trixie*, 1986

fabric, plastic, glass, wire, foam, feathers, cardboard, makeup

46 x 30 x 13 inches (116.8 x 76.2 x 33 cm)

(PO106)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Tom Saw-Yer*, 1980

foam, fabric, paint, wire

74 x 43 x 30 inches (188 x 109.2 x 76.2 cm)

(PO104)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Lem-N-Nate*, 1980

foam, fabric, paint, wire

80 x 33 x 34 inches (203.2 x 83.8 x 86.4 cm)

(PO103)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Mike Hammer*, 1980

foam, fabric, paint, wire

76 x 22 x 42 inches (193 x 55.9 x 106.7 cm)

(PO112)

**Monitor:**



**Pat Oleszko**

*Footsi*, 1979

single channel video, 4:50s

Edition of 3 + 1 AP

(PO155)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Handyman's Tool Jests*, 1980

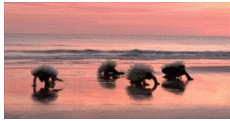
single channel video, 5:24s

Edition of 3 + 1 AP

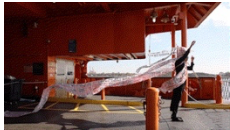
(PO156)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*Where Fools Russian*, 1985  
single channel video, 6:33s  
Edition of 3 + 1 AP  
(PO157)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*Darwin's Nightmare: Pa't One*, 2013  
single channel video, 3:29s  
Edition of 3 + 1 AP  
(PO158)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*Stoke the Vote!*, 2021  
single channel video, 1:26s  
Edition of 3 + 1 AP  
(PO159)

## Main Gallery Pt. 2



**Pat Oleszko**  
*PS 122*, 2018  
fabric, cardboard, paint  
14 x 18 x 11 inches (35.6 x 45.7 x 27.9 cm)  
(PO115)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*D'Art Bored*, 2008  
fabric, cardboard, foam, darts  
7 x 14 x 12 inches (17.8 x 35.6 x 30.5 cm)  
(PO117)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*Picnic-To-Go (MacDowell)*, 2007  
fabric, turf, glass, cardboard  
17 x 12 1/2 x 12 inches (43.2 x 31.8 x 30.5 cm)  
(PO118)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*Chinatown Re/Boot*, 2016  
fabric  
16 x 16 x 11 inches (40.6 x 40.6 x 27.9 cm)  
(PO116)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*A/Bout Dissent*, 2014  
cardboard, string, plastic, fabric  
16 x 10 1/2 x 10 1/2 inches (40.6 x 26.7 x 26.7 cm)  
(PO119)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*Little House on the Prairie*, 2001  
popsicle sticks, turf  
29 x 8 1/2 x 11 1/2 inches (73.7 x 21.6 x 29.2 cm)  
(PO123)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*Udder Delight*, 1989  
nylon, blower  
82 x 48 x 74 in (208.5 x 122 x 188 cm)  
(PO107)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*Tree-Angle*, 2010  
industrial carpet  
84 x 84 x 36 inches (213.4 x 213.4 x 91.4 cm)  
(PO109)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*Love(sic) Cactus*, 2010  
industrial carpet, plastic planter, zip ties  
79 x 48 x 33 inches (200.7 x 121.9 x 83.8 cm)  
(PO108)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Caution Daisy*, 2010

industrial carpet, caution tape, wood, pipe cleaners

82 x 70 x 21 inches (208.3 x 177.8 x 53.3 cm)

(PO110)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Stumpy*, 2010

felt, cardboard, foam

96 x 72 x 22 inches (243.8 x 182.9 x 55.9 cm)

(PO111)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Barn/Dance*, 2014

wood, paper

21 x 17 x 12 inches (53.3 x 43.2 x 30.5 cm)

(PO125)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Barn/Dance*, 2014

wood, fabric, tin can

23 1/2 x 26 x 18 inches (59.7 x 66 x 45.7 cm)

(PO131)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Barn/Dance (the Horses)*, 2014

fabric, wood

18 x 17 x 9 1/2 inches (45.7 x 43.2 x 24.1 cm)

(PO126)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Barn/Dance*, 2014

wood

11 x 18 x 10 inches (27.9 x 45.7 x 25.4 cm)

(PO129)



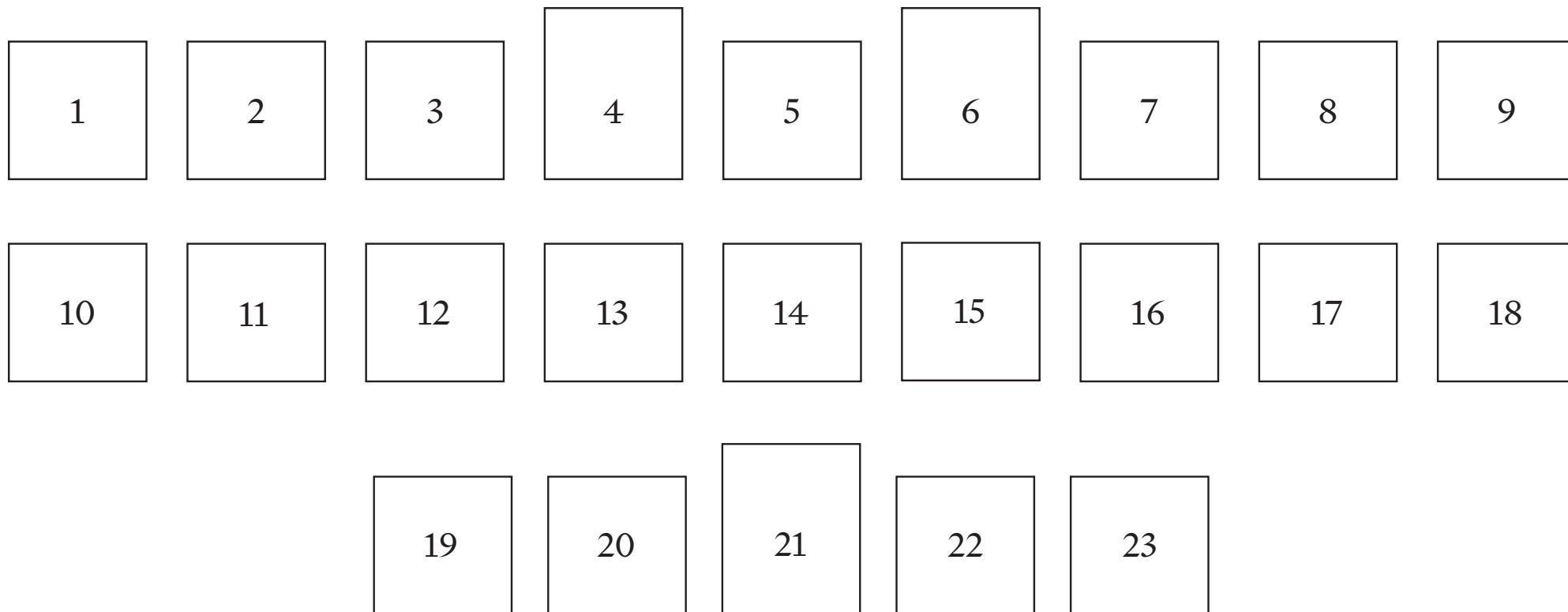
**Pat Oleszko**  
*Be/Wear the Writhing Waters*, 2016  
palm, cardboard  
21 x 16 x 13 inches (53.3 x 40.6 x 33 cm)  
(PO127)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*Barn/Dance*, 2014  
wood  
24 x 24 x 10 inches (61 x 61 x 25.4 cm)  
(PO128)



**Pat Oleszko**  
*The Padettes of P.O. Town*, 1977  
fabric, fiberfill, leather, wood  
74 x 49 x 27 inches (188 x 124.5 x 68.6 cm)  
(PO102)



1. *Row v. Wade Parade*, 2022, paper, cardboard, 12 × 20 × 10 inches, (PO143)
2. *Row v. Wade Parade*, 2022, paper, cardboard, 11 × 15 × 17 inches, (PO149)
3. *Row v. Wade Parade*, 2022, paper, cardboard, 11 × 12 × 10 inches, (PO148)
4. *Row v. Wade Parade*, 2022, paper, cardboard, 17 × 13 × 30 inches, (PO141)
5. *Row v. Wade Parade*, 2022, paper, cardboard, 11 × 18 × 10 1/2 inches, (PO145)
6. *Row v. Wade Parade*, 2022, paper, cardboard, 14 × 12 × 13 inches, (PO142)
7. *Row v. Wade Parade*, 2022, paper, cardboard, 14 × 12 × 11 inches, (PO147)
8. *Row v. Wade Parade*, 2022, paper, cardboard, 10 × 13 × 9 inches, (PO144)
9. *Row v. Wade Parade*, 2022, paper, cardboard, 11 × 16 × 17 inches, (PO146)
10. *Green/Piece*, 2023, paper, cardboard, 14 × 17 × 20 inches, (PO135)
11. *Green/Piece*, 2023, paper, cardboard, 12 × 15 × 10 inches, (PO138)
12. *Green/Piece*, 2023, paper, cardboard, 13 × 8 × 8 inches, (PO136)
13. *Green/Piece*, 2023, paper, cardboard, 15 × 9 × 9 inches, (PO137)
14. *Green/Piece*, 2023, paper, cardboard, 10 × 18 × 18 inches, (PO139)
15. *Green/Piece*, 2023, paper, cardboard, 10 × 18 × 18 inches, (PO132)
16. *Green/Piece*, 2023, paper, cardboard, 13 × 12 × 13 inches, (PO133)
17. *Green/Piece*, 2023, paper, cardboard, 12 × 17 × 13 inches, (PO134)
18. *Green/Piece*, 2023, paper, cardboard, 20 × 12 × 11 inches, (PO140)
19. *Birthday Hat*, 2011, paper, cardboard, 10 × 14 × 15 inches, (PO151)
20. *Bride's Head Revisited*, 2014, paper, cardboard, 13 × 17 × 17 inches, (PO153)
21. *Bluster*, 1995, paper, cardboard, 18 × 20 × 9 inches, (PO154)
22. *Make Art Here*, 2014, paper, cardboard, 11 × 18 × 19 inches, (PO152)
23. *Birthday Hat*, 2011, paper, cardboard, 14 × 18 × 19 inches, (PO150)



Office:



**Pat Oleszko**

*Pat Kiosk*, 1980

fabric, dowels, leather, postcards

93 x 83 x 12 inches (236.2 x 210.8 x 30.5 cm)

(PO113)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Handbag-To-Go*, 1990

fabric, metal, fiberfill

8 x 27 x 8 inches (20.3 x 68.6 x 20.3 cm)

(PO160)

“Patemkin Gallery”



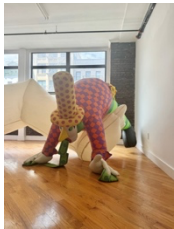
**Pat Oleszko**

*Womb With A View*, 1990

nylon, blower

106 x 202 x 216 inches (269.2 x 513.1 x 548.6 cm)

(PO105)



**Pat Oleszko**

*Mr. Green Jeans*, 1990

nylon, blower

68 x 82 x 106 inches (172.7 x 208.3 x 269.2 cm)

(PO114)