

Heinrich, Will. "4 Art Gallery Shows to See Right Now," *The New York Times*, 11 November 2020.

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'Living Things'

Through Nov. 28. JTT, 191 Chrystie Street, Manhattan; 212-574-8152, jttnyc.com.



Still from the short film "Footsi," in which Pat Oleszko slips two tiny black shoes onto her middle and index fingers and takes them out for a walk. Credit Pat Oleszko and JTT

The highlight of that excruciating election week, for me, was a 1979 short film called "Footsi." In it, the performance artist Pat Oleszko slips two tiny black shoes onto her middle and index fingers and takes them out for a walk. The fingers traverse her own naked body, go wading in the kitchen sink, and run on a spinning LP. With two more shoes on her left hand, Ms. Oleszko even reprises the famous "mirror scene" from the 1933 Marx Brothers comedy "Duck Soup." "Footsi" appears in "Living Things," a group show whose works chart a delicate line between whimsy and paranoia as they consider how we invest objects – or body parts – with personality. Charles LeDray's jaw-dropping installation "Free Public Library" suggests a story as dense as the average novel. An eight-foot section of concrete sidewalk complete with stone edging, this piece is covered with meticulous miniatures of tote bags, cardboard boxes and books with real titles. (Two evocative examples: "Puppies and Kittens" and "Prisoners of Childhood.")



Charles LeDray's Installation "Free Public Library" (2015-2019) in the group show "Living Things."
Credit JTT and Peter Freeman, Inc; Charles Benton

The illustrator William Teason's book-cover mock-ups are ominous but weirdly cheerful; the young sculptor Anna-Sophie Berger conjures a clown face with two black circles and a light bulb; and sculptures by Anthea Hamilton and Maren Hassinger summon a world of twittering spirits just out of sight. But it's "Udder Delight," another entry by Ms. Oleszko, that best fits the current mood. A costume covered in cartoonish inflatable breasts, it's an ambiguous infantile fantasy, at once absurd and terrifying. *WILL HEINRICH*