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This Week: Must-See Arts in the City

WNYC's Arts Datebook: May 30 - June 5, 2012

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WNYC



At Susan Inglett Gallery: An examination of the artistic milieu that surrounded the sexual revolution (and the porn industry) of the late 1960s. Seen here: Carolee Schneeman's 'Eye Body' from 1963. (Courtesy Susan Inglett Gallery)

Art about sex, art about sci-fi landscapes, art about dilapidated industry and art in which the everyday is turned into abstraction. There is lots of trippy-weird stuff going on in New York City this week — not to mention a crazy number of open studios in Brooklyn. Here's what we're looking at:

SCREW YOU at Susan Inglett Gallery Even in the free love days of the late 1960s, it wasn't all that easy to be in the porn business. Publishers were routinely hit with obscenity charges, requiring pricy lawyers and time-wasting visits to court. In an attempt to skirt obscenity laws, many magazines from the era featured artsy and alternative journalism as a way of selling the whole mess as art. Magazines such as Al Goldstein's notorious Screw featured contributions and/or interviews with figures as wide-ranging as Andy Warhol, Dan Graham and Yoko Ono amid spreads devoted to, well, spreads. Some artists, like Yayoi Kusama, issued their own tabloids, such as Kusama's Orgy of Nudity. Journals like the New York Review of Sex and Politics explored more intellectual (albeit equally sexy)

territory — with a line-up that featured everyone from novelist Charles Bukowski to performance artist Carolee Schneeman. The show at Inglett, organized by David Platzker of Specific Object, examines the art-meets-porn milieu of the late '60s and early '70s. *Opens Thursday, in Chelsea*.