

What to See in New York City Art Galleries This Week

Genesis Belanger

*Through Nov. 4. Mrs., 60-40 56th Drive, Maspeth, Queens; 347-841-6149,
mrsgallery.com.*

Surrealism and Pop Art were concerned with mass production, consumerism and the psychic impact of living in a world flooded with objects. Genesis Belanger picks up this thread in “Cheap Cookie and a Tall Drink of Water” at Mrs.



“Cheap Cookie,” 2017. Mrs. Gallery

Ms. Belanger's sculptures, made with stoneware, porcelain and concrete, allude to recognizable objects and yet blur their references. "Cheap Cookie" (all works are from 2017) is an Oreo grasped between two human fingers, rounded into a nearly abstract circle. "Dog in Heels" is a hot dog eased into a sandal and "Big Yummy" looks like a minimalist concrete slab, but actually represents a piece of chewing gum wrapped in foil paper.



"Big Yummy," 2017. Mrs. Gallery

Part of the attraction of Ms. Belanger's work is how it conjures art history: Salvador Dalí's lobster phone; Meret Oppenheim's fur-covered teacup; Claes Oldenburg's soft sculptures; Man Ray's objects wrapped in felt; and pieces by Evelyne Axell, Marisol, Niki de Saint Phalle, Tom Wesselmann, Brian Calvin, Al Hansen and many others working in the Pop idiom.



"Dog in Heels," 2017. Mrs. Gallery

Where earlier artists were focused on the uncanniness of new electronics and mass-produced food, however, or stripped them down to a midcentury malaise, Ms. Belanger takes a middle path. Her sculptures, with their rounded surfaces and pastel hues, reflect an era of postmodern design, of so-called "user friendly" electronics and "relatable" experiences. Gadgets have become more prosthetic than ever and everything from hot dogs to cigarettes can be "organic." Rather than filling us with Freudian angst or existential terror over this situation, Ms. Belanger's sculptures feel like emotional support animals: comforting creatures (or biological "interfaces") that ease our way through a difficult and confusing world.

MARTHA SCHWENDENER

Schwendener, Martha. "Genesis Belanger" *The New York Times*, October 25, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/25/arts/what-to-see-in-new-york-city-art-galleries-this-week.html>