

Art Gallery Shows to See in April

This week in Newly Reviewed, Travis Diehl covers Pat Oleszko's burlesque street theater, Paul Chan's inflatables, David Armstrong's calm curiosity and Torbjorn Rodland's subtle awkwardness.



"Tokener Ecstasis," 2025. via Paul Chan and Greene Naftali, New York;
Photo by Júlia Standovár

CHELSEA

Paul Chan

Through April 25. Greene Naftali, 508 West 28th Street; 212-463-7770, greenenaftaligallery.com.

Jabbering, flapping creatures beckoning from car dealerships or guarding the entrances of Nuts Factory stores — the multimedia artist Paul Chan has made a long study of these novelties, and the result is a surprisingly nuanced series of fan-powered inflatable sculptures.

They're called "Breathers," a name that imbues glorified windsocks with animistic life and intention. Viewing eight of them together allows you to appreciate the ways Chan guides their movements by varying the size and position of slits and holes. In "Hex 1 (Hadejwich)," 2024, three arms coming off a main trunk flick in rotation; the grouping "Tokener Choros 2," 2024, resembles a ring-around-the-rosie of nodding, hooded druids.

The most intriguing pieces seem broken. At first I thought "Tokener Stasis," 2025, a pair of black Breathers linking droopy arms, was out of commission, but on closer inspection their plugs connect to each other, not an outlet — they are limp and lifeless by design. Chan can pack a lot of pathos into a plastic bag.