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# What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries Right Now

By John Vincler, Aruna D'Souza, [Blake Gopnik](#) and Dawn Chan  
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CHINATOWN

## Marc Kokopeli

Through June 26. Reena Spaulings Fine Art, 165 East Broadway, Manhattan;  
212-477-5006, [reenaspaulings.com](https://reenaspaulings.com)



Installation view of Marc Kokopeli's "Die Pampertaarten" at Reena Spaulings Fine Art. Credit...Marc Kokopeli and Reena Spaulings Fine Art; Joerg Lohse



If the gallery scene were a baby shower, Marc Kokopeli would bring the most creative gift. “Die Pampertaarten,” or “the pamper cakes,” presents a veritable armada of trucks, tanks and trikes composed mostly of diapers — tightly rolled, wrapped around frames, bound into bristling pinwheels. In case this is your introduction to diaper cakes (if you missed that episode of “Sex and the City”), the idea is that every such confection provides a stash of new and usable diapers, garnished with useful accessories like pacifiers and bibs — while the memory of each fantastical arrangement will linger long after the last Pampers hits the landfill. As with expecting parents, so with jaded gallerygoers. These diaper cakes delight with their novelty, impress with their craft and amuse with their harlequin variety and wit.

Kokopeli, a New York artist in his mid-30s, isn’t a parent himself — he draws inspiration from the teaching aids for kids that his mother used to make. Here, departing from the pudgy tractors and tiered towers seen on tutorials, he concocts muddy dirt bikes, a mammoth German-style coal excavator, a gory auto accident, a Pampers Popemobile trailed by two Swiss Guards. This infantile show indulges the kitsch of gender reveals and bridal brunches, so thoroughly that it satirizes the originality, skill and seriousness expected of high culture. Apparently, in this decadent day and age, both the late style of contemporary art and the latest trends in feting newborns prompt roomfuls of grown-ups to imagine eating diapers. *TRAVIS DIEHL*