

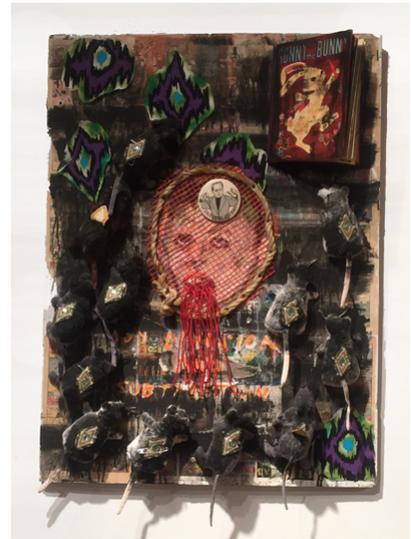
What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week

APRIL 13, 2017

SCOOTER LaFORGE

*Through April 30.
Theodore:Art, 56 Bogart Street, Brooklyn;
212-966-4324, theodoreart.com.*

Scooter LaForge's "Joy Division and Subtraction," a mixed-media work from 2017, at Theodore:Art. Credit Courtesy of the artist and Theodore:Art, Brooklyn



For some people, downtown Manhattan in the 1970s and '80s was a pageant of performance, visual art and fashion winding its way through nightclubs, shops, galleries and the subway system. Scooter LaForge didn't live there during that era. But he has designed clothing for Madonna and Debbie Harry, among others, and "wearable art" for Patricia Field, who sold Jean-Michel Basquiat's early painted T-shirts and Keith Haring's wares in her Eighth Street boutique. You can also see —and touch and taste — art that channels that moment in Mr. LaForge's "Everything is Going to Be OK" at Theodore:Art in Bushwick.

Mr. LaForge's bent is toward Expressionism, recalling the Neo-Expressionism that was popular in the '80s, the manic Neo-Surrealism of George Condo, and the comics-to-graffiti-to-canvas style of Kenny Scharf. Some of the works here have clever titles, like "Joy Division and Subtraction" (2017), referring to the post-punk band Joy Division, or a series of paintings — "Sneezy," "Dopey" and "Grumpy" —that update Disney's 1937 filmic take on the German fairy tale about Snow White. The show also has jewelry titled after prescription drugs and a Halloween-like installation with pink cobwebs.

On Sundays, the proceedings include a portrait studio where visitors can have their likenesses drawn (by Mr. LaForge and the painter Joel Handorff), and a Candy Pharmacy collaboration with Faye Scott-Farrington that features edible versions of Prozac and Viagra (that is, capsules filled with Pixy Stix powder and other confections). These add G-rated fun to the exhibition — a wan facsimile of the after-hours debauchery for which downtown was famous and in which nostalgia has replaced a wicked hangover, or worse.

MARTHA SCHWENDENER