

Art

9 Must-See Shows in New York This March

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Michelle Segre & Julia Bland

Derek Eller, 300 Broome Street

Feb. 6–Mar. 8

Michelle Segre's work asks: What is art but a playground for adults? Working at her most ambitious scale to date, Segre has constructed giant yarn contraptions that hang from green, blue, and orange metallic frames. In *Star Zero* (2020), the yarn takes the shape of a bull's-eye. A painted blue lotus root chip dangles from the threads like an irreverent charm. Segre doubles down on her organic matter in *Just why do you think you're a plant?* (2020), which features a massive orange carrot made from beeswax. It lies on the floor beneath all the yarn, conjuring a zany animation (Segre titled her last show at the gallery "Dawn of the Looney Tune"). Seeing the artist's exuberant use of readily accessible craft materials, I thought of Joanne Greenbaum's recent show at Rachel Uffner, which featured paintings made with magic marker. Down with self-seriousness!

The gallery makes a canny pairing, juxtaposing Segre's sculptures with Julia Bland's simultaneously lithe and sturdy textiles. They feature netted spines and pleasing symmetries, painted regions that add heft and rounded contours that suggest leaves and bulbs. The works are infused with the abstract feminine mysticism that pervades paintings by Georgia O'Keeffe or Hilma af Klint, yet their earthen tones make them feel much more grounded.

—Alina Cohen